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United Nations

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

Forty-fourth session (7 June-2 July 2004)

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Fifty-ninth Session
Supplement No. 16 (A/59/16)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I
Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 1 June 2004 and its substantive session from 7 June to 2 July 2004. It held a total of 24 meetings and a number of informal consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the forty-fourth session, adopted by the Committee at its organizational session (1st meeting), is contained in annex I to the present report. Also at its 1st meeting, the Committee decided to take note of the information on the current notional costs of documentation and interpretation services.

3. The attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in document E/AC.51/2004/L.3, and the Committee was informed that the two reports listed in the document were scheduled for consideration by the Fifth Committee and in plenary meeting during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly. A decision on whether the Committee should consider one of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit listed in the document was postponed to a later meeting, pending further consultations.

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 June, the Committee decided not to consider any of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in document E/AC.51/2004/L.3.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the proposed programme of work for its forty-fourth session.

B. Election of officers

6. At its organizational session (1st meeting), on 1 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Nonye Udo (Nigeria), Chairman of the Committee for the forty-fourth session.

7. At its 1st, 2nd and 15th meetings, on 1, 7 and 18 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following members of the Bureau for the forty-fourth session:

Vice-Chairpersons:
Valery Mkrtoumian (Armenia)
Frank Davis (Bahamas)
Roman Kolakovic (Switzerland)

Rapporteur:
Hitoshi Kozaki (Japan)

C. Attendance

8. The following States Members were represented on the Committee:

Argentina	Japan
Armenia	Mexico
Bahamas	Monaco
Benin	Nicaragua
Brazil	Nigeria
Canada	Pakistan
Central African Republic	Republic of Korea
China	Republic of Moldova
Comoros	Russian Federation
Cuba	South Africa
Ethiopia	Switzerland
France	Tunisia
Gabon	Ukraine
Germany	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
India	United States of America
Indonesia	Uruguay
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Zimbabwe

9. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Algeria	Kenya
Austria	Lebanon
Chile	Morocco
Colombia	Nauru
Croatia	Netherlands
Djibouti	Philippines
Ecuador	Portugal
Egypt	Slovakia
Finland	Sweden
Guatemala	Syrian Arab Republic
Honduras	Thailand
Ireland	Trinidad and Tobago
Israel	Uganda
Italy	United Republic of Tanzania
Jamaica	Venezuela

10. The following regional commissions and specialized agencies were represented:

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Regional Commissions, New York Office

International Labour Organization

World Health Organization

World Intellectual Property Organization

11. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General for Management, the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, the Controller, the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Deputy Secretary-General for Trade and Development, the Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Executive Secretary and Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit and senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

12. The following programmes of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 were discussed by means of videoconference: programme 5: Peaceful uses of outer space; programme 13: International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice; programme 19: Human rights; programme 21: Palestine refugees; and programme 26: Jointly financed administrative activities: (b) Joint Inspection Unit.

D. Documentation

13. The list of documents before the Committee at its forty-fourth session is set out in annex II to the present report.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

14. At its 24th meeting, on 2 July 2004, the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division introduced a statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council on the programme budget implications of the draft recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on programme 24, Management and support services (E/AC.51/2004/7).

15. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Committee indicated changes to be made to some sections of the draft report of the Committee (E/AC.51/2004/L.5 and Add.1-37).

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report on the work of its forty-fourth session (E/AC.51/2004/L.5 and Add.1-37), as orally revised and amended, as a whole. The Committee also decided to entrust the Rapporteur of the Committee, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Committee, to complete the report with a view to its submission to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session for 2004 and to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

Chapter II
Programme questions

A. Programme planning

Priority-setting

17. At its 22nd meeting, on 24 June, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on priority-setting (A/59/87).

18. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the document.

Conclusions and recommendations

19. **The Committee decided to continue its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on priority-setting at its forty-fifth session and recommended that the General Assembly defer its consideration of the report to its sixtieth session.**

B. Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003

20. At its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 8 and 9 June, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/59/69).

21. The representative of the Office of Internal Oversight Services introduced the report of the Secretary-General and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of it.

Discussion

22. Delegations commended the Office of Internal Oversight Services for reporting on programme performance for the first time in the context of the results-based budget. It was noted that the report was an important milestone in an evolving process of review and evaluation and a significant advance in comparison with the report for the biennium 2000-2001. The overview of the results of the Organization as a whole and of programme performance by section of the biennial programme budget were appreciated. The efforts of the Office and its collaborators to improve the format and content of the performance report and its attempts to report accomplishments of the Secretariat in a more coherent and compact format and to make the report a more useful tool to support decision-making and governance were welcomed. Appreciation was expressed for the improved format of the report and for the increased emphasis on results rather than inputs and outputs. The Office of Internal Oversight Services project team was commended for its efforts to respond to repeated requests by the General Assembly and the Committee for Programme and Coordination to improve performance reporting and advance a results-based culture in the United Nations.

23. It was stressed that the innovation of producing an electronic version of the report, which was posted on the Internet, as well as a print version, was very useful

and would help to make the report on achievements of the United Nations more widely available, not only to delegates and Governments, but to the wider public as well. The hyperlinks to many sources of relevant information in the electronic version were appreciated.

24. The average implementation rate of 84 per cent for the biennium 2002-2003, 1 per cent higher than the rate attained in 2000-2001, was noted with satisfaction.

25. It was noted with appreciation that the Secretariat had been successfully implementing new and revised mandates adopted during the biennium 2002-2003, such as the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

26. The programme performance report for the biennium 2002-2003 provided an opportunity for the first time to evaluate the application of the results-based logical framework and to determine whether programme managers and staff were able to articulate programme implementation in terms of results achieved. It provided part of the evidence that the Committee and other bodies needed to assess the implementation of results-based management. The report showed that there had been improvements in performance reporting and programme managers and the Office of Internal Oversight Services were commended on their work. Agreement was expressed with the conclusion of the Secretary-General that during the previous biennium, convincing results of the Organization's activities had been demonstrated. It was hoped that the Secretariat would learn from experience and make further progress on the basis of results already achieved.

27. It was noted that the report was a work in progress. The Secretariat should ensure that concrete explanations were provided in illustration of the attainment of expected accomplishments. Some of the explanations were too vague and generic. Consistent standards were expected to be set for surveys and other performance measures, which, in turn, would ensure that common factors were used to evaluate results. With a fuller exploration of the entire scope and potential of monitoring and evaluation in line with results-based-budgeting approaches, a future report should provide a comprehensive analysis on accomplishments, drawn from performance indicators and measures, as well as on outputs. It could enable delegations to assess and find areas in which the United Nations made a real difference and areas in which it might set priorities for the future.

28. It was emphasized that the collaborative efforts of the Office of Internal Oversight Services with the Programme Planning and Budget Division and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to strengthen capacity within the Organization to apply the results-based approach and to improve the tools for collecting relevant data on performance and results were very important. The Secretariat was expected to expand on the progress made in establishing and collecting baseline and target data as well as on benchmarking in the next performance report. Programme managers needed to be fully engaged in monitoring, with reporting on programme performance being an integral part of such engagement.

29. It was noted that the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS) had enabled programme managers to monitor the implementation and performance of programmes during the period 2002-2003, and efforts for the further development of IMDIS were welcomed.

30. It was suggested that the performance report was very helpful not only for Member States but also for the Secretariat. A major benefit of the exercise lay in the necessity for every unit of the Secretariat to reflect on what it was doing and what it wanted to achieve and on how to attain objectives in the most economical manner. Regular reflection on whether the right things were done was in itself a success. The rate of success was secondary, in particular as it was very difficult to measure success in the public domain. It was recognized that results-based budgeting in the United Nations was constantly developing in a positive way and confidence was expressed that the quality of future performance reports would reflect the improved quality of programme plans and budgets.

31. It was acknowledged that for the measurement of results it was necessary at the time of formulating expected accomplishments to have reliable data for establishing baselines against which the Secretariat could evaluate its performance, and it was recalled that a significant portion of the indicators of achievement in the programme budget for 2002-2003 was prepared without baseline data.

32. A big part of the problem was the very general way in which expected accomplishments were first expressed. Information provided on major service areas such as the Department of Management and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management showed that there was a need to provide for specific measures of efficiency, productivity and cost-effectiveness when desired accomplishments were framed. There was almost no verifiable and quantitative information to demonstrate results of improvements reported as having been implemented.

33. Views were expressed that questioned the utility of reporting on outputs for the assessment of the performance of the Organization. It was noted that the work of large segments of the Organization was not denominated in outputs. The continued inclusion of input/output analysis in the performance report was determined to be ineffective and not very useful for efforts by Member States to measure the Organization's performance in carrying out priority activities.

34. A view was expressed that the mandate for the enhancement of the format of the programme performance report was not clear.

35. The Committee emphasized the need for all programme managers to fulfil their obligations to implement fully the relevant resolutions, regulations and rules related to results-based budgeting and management.

Conclusions and recommendations

36. The Committee recalled that the Secretary-General, in his report on improvements to the current process of planning and budgeting (A/58/395 and Corr.1), had recommended that the General Assembly approve, among the features of an improved planning and budgeting system, a modified biennial programme performance report that would focus on the achievement of expected results. In that regard, the Committee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, had limited the specificity of its response to urging the Secretary-General to improve the format and timing of programme performance and evaluation reports.

37. **The Committee took note of the performance report, in particular the improved format with a sharper focus on results achieved rather than outputs produced.**

38. **The Committee also commended the innovative approach used to format and distribute the report with electronic links to supporting documents. It recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue exploring ways to streamline and modernize future performance reports, including through the greater use of electronic documentation and support materials for the sake of further improvement of the reports.**

39. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue improving the implementation of results-based budgeting and management of programmes, with increased emphasis on results.**

40. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to provide overall support and guidance to all departments in managing for results, including the issuance of guidelines, handbooks or manuals, as appropriate, for the monitoring and evaluation of the work undertaken in order to determine its continuing relevance, usefulness, efficiency and effectiveness.**

41. **The Committee recommended that future reporting on programme performance be more closely aligned with the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement.**

42. **The Committee noted with appreciation that the programme performance report included, for each section, a list of the subprogrammes in the programme, a box with highlights of programme results and subsections on subprogramme accomplishments. The Committee requested that the programme performance report for the biennium 2004-2005 also include, in each section, a box with a brief description of challenges, obstacles and unmet goals so as to facilitate the evaluation by the Committee for Programme and Coordination of issues affecting programme performance.**

C. Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part One: Plan outline

43. At its 8th and 10th meetings, on 14 and 15 June, the Committee considered part one, plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 (A/59/6 (Part One) and Corr.1).

44. At the 8th meeting, on 14 June, the representative of the Secretary-General introduced part one and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the document.

45. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, had requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a trial basis, for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, a strategic framework to replace the current four-year medium-term plan, which would comprise in one document the following:

(a) Part One: Plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization;

(b) Part Two: Biennial programme plan, covering two years.

The Assembly also affirmed that the strategic framework should constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should serve as the basis for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation.

46. The representative of the Secretary-General drew attention to the fact that part one highlighted the longer-term objectives of the Organization and the priorities to be designated, while part two presented the biennial programme plan for all 26 programmes, which reflected the translation of legislation mandates. He also stated that it was important to bear in mind that the legislative mandates were addressed to Governments, intergovernmental bodies, United Nations organizations and other entities, as well as to the Secretary-General, and that, therefore, responsibility for the success of the programmes was neither the exclusive preserve of Member States, acting individually or in intergovernmental organs, nor of the Secretariat.

Discussion

47. It was noted that the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 had been prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 58/269 and reflected the results-based approach to programme design. It was also noted that, in accordance with that resolution, the Assembly would have the opportunity to review, at its sixty-second session, in 2006, the format, content and duration of the strategic framework in the light of experience gained.

48. While there may still be some "teething problems", the improvements made to the logical framework, reflecting clearer objectives, more meaningful expected accomplishments, more measurable indicators of achievement and their respective linkages, were welcomed. It was noted that the objectives were not limited to two years, while the expected accomplishments reflected the anticipated consequence of products and services to be delivered by the Secretariat within a two-year period.

49. The plan outline contained in part one was welcomed as a succinct, clear and readable document, reflecting longer-term objectives and the values of the Organization. At the same time, it was observed that the plan outline was not as balanced as it could have been in terms of issues related to economic, social and cultural development. It was stressed that the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992, represented the highest priorities of the Organization.

50. The view was expressed that while there was a continuing need to address the many conflicts around the world and to combat international terrorism, it was necessary to recognize that the importance given those issues should not dilute or detract from the importance of development issues, in particular since the gap between North and South and between rich and poor was widening. In that connection, it was stated that the problems related to globalization had not been addressed sufficiently, nor had adequate attention been given to the role of the United Nations in dealing with those problems.

51. It was observed that while official development assistance should increase, the need for mobilization of domestic resources should not be ignored. The view was expressed that peace, security and stability were essential elements for the success of development programmes.

52. The view was also expressed that democracy and human rights were common values that were directly related to respect for international law and international humanitarian law, as well as to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. At the same time, it was emphasized that while human rights and good governance remained as important as ever, observance of them applied as much to developed as to developing societies.

53. The view was expressed that the right to development, an integrated approach to growth and development and the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance were essential components of an integrated, interrelated and interdependent approach to human rights.

54. The discussion on the environment was considered inadequate, focusing on symptoms rather than causes. Concern was expressed about the use of terminology that had not yet been agreed, such as "global public goods" and "global commons".

55. The absence of reference to the crisis in the Middle East was regretted.

56. The view was expressed that the "collective responsibility" between the Secretariat and Member States should not result in a situation where no one would be responsible for achieving the objectives. It was also noted that legislative mandates were addressed by intergovernmental organs to the Secretary-General, Member States and other entities, all of which needed to work collaboratively to ensure that the programmes made a positive impact on the beneficiaries.

57. Efforts made by the Secretary-General to ensure that the Organization became more efficient and more results-oriented were welcomed. At the same time, it was stressed that there must be clear evidence of greater efficiency and effectiveness, not only within the Secretariat, but also at the intergovernmental level. The view was expressed that, given the scope and level of increasing demands placed upon the Organization, adequate resources must be made available. Concern was expressed about the increasing burden in Member States of financing the expansion of activities and, in that connection, it was noted that a balance must be found between resources for peacekeeping and resources for development.

58. The view was expressed that reviewing the strategic framework on a line-by-line basis should be avoided and that it was necessary to focus more on policy direction and overall programme design, in particular with respect to the issues of overlap and duplication.

59. The importance of views provided by the specialized intergovernmental bodies on the various programmes of the strategic framework was stressed. Information was requested on the review of Part Two: Biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 1-26) and Prog. 22/Corr.1), by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies. That information was subsequently provided to the Committee by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/2004/CRP.1).

60. With respect to the structure and format of the programmes in the biennial programme plan, improvements made to the articulation of objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement were welcomed. It was noted that

the logical framework was presented in the same tabular format as in the proposed programme budget, making it easier to determine the link between all the elements, namely, objectives of the Organization, expected accomplishments of the Secretariat and indicators of achievement.

61. It was also noted that major efforts had been made to formulate objectives of the Organization that were succinct and reflective of what the subprogramme intended to achieve rather than what it intended to do. The view was expressed that it was noticeable that the indicators of achievement had become more measurable and better linked to the expected accomplishments. It was also noted that performance measures, namely baselines and targets, external factors and outputs, would be included in the programme budget document.

62. At the same time, views were expressed that some indicators remained somewhat abstract and that, without the inclusion of baselines and targets, it was difficult, when reviewing each programme, to assess its relevance and measurability. The view was expressed that some indicators of achievement measured the quantity of work rather than the quality of results achieved.

63. The continuing efforts to be made by the Department of Management, in collaboration with the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to improve data systems, establish standards, develop manuals and guidelines and conduct training programmes were welcomed and encouraged.

64. It was noted that the proposed priorities were still valid. It was also noted that the designation of priorities did not reflect an ordering of priorities.

Conclusions and recommendations

65. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly review part one, plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 (A/59/6 (Part One)) at its fifty-ninth session.**

Part Two: Biennial programme plan

Programme 1
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

66. At its 18th meeting, on 21 June, the Committee considered programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 (A/59/6 (Prog. 1)).

67. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 1 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

68. General support was expressed for the proposed programme, in view of the importance of the services provided for Member States by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. The reform measures undertaken over the past two years by the Department with a view to improving its performance

and its continuous efforts towards the integrated global management of conference services were noted and commended. Views were expressed that the direction taken towards proactive technical secretariat servicing, integrated global management and expanded application of information technology in the conference-servicing process had improved services to Member States and made the conference services of the Organization more efficient and cost-effective. It was also emphasized that the cost savings expected in the course of the reform of the Department should not be achieved at the expense of the quality of services.

69. Views were expressed that the proposed strategic framework was comprehensive enough and had sufficiently addressed all important aspects of the programme. On the other hand, concern was expressed that the proposed biennial programme plan did not reflect fully all existing mandates, in particular the provisions of General Assembly resolution 58/250 of 23 December 2003 on the pattern of conferences with respect to the issue of multilingualism. The need to bring the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement closer to the requirements set out in the resolution was emphasized. The view was expressed that the goals of subprogrammes must fully reflect the Organization's principle of multilingualism in order to ensure unimpeded and equal use of the official languages by representatives of Member States and members of expert bodies of the United Nations. It was pointed out that, in the light of the need to meet the above-mentioned challenge, including in the field of human resources, a project to train interpreters and translators in the Russian language for the international organizations was being implemented, relying on training materials received through active working contacts with the Department. It was pointed out that the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement could be refined further. Views were also expressed to the effect that the absence of baseline and target performance indicators did not allow a full assessment of the relevance of the proposed accomplishments and indicators. The view was also expressed that the logical framework in the programme plan was excessively unified and, for that reason, did not provide sufficiently for the specific needs of the conference services programmed for each duty station. It was pointed out that the proposed surveys to measure client satisfaction should be conducted on a regular basis and that other indicators to measure client satisfaction, as well as the quality and efficiency of services, should be developed. The view was expressed that the heavy reliance on Member State satisfaction in programme 1 put an onus on the Secretary-General to undertake regular surveys of Member States' satisfaction with the performance of the Department in order to assess accurately the achievement of expected accomplishments.

70. Improvements achieved in the quality of documents were noted. It was emphasized, however, that the six-week rule for the availability of parliamentary documentation in all official languages remained an established mandate and that the programme plan should clearly state when full compliance with that mandate would be achieved. Concerns were expressed about the gap still existing in the quality of interpretation and translation services between the six official languages of the United Nations. It was stressed that interpretation and translation from the original language to other official languages should correctly reflect the ideas expressed in the original language.

Conclusions and recommendations

71. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 1.1

In the first sentence replace the words "Main Committees" with the words "First, Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth), Second and Third Committees".

At the end of the last sentence, after the words "United Nations", add the words ", taking into account the principle of equal treatment to be given to all established official languages in each organ of the Organization".

Paragraph 1.3

In the third sentence, after the words "expert bodies", insert the words "serviced by the Department,".

In the penultimate sentence, after the words "information technology", insert the words ", subject to related provisions of the above-mentioned General Assembly resolutions,".

A. Conference management, New York

Subprogramme 1
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs

Objective of the Organization

In the footnote, after the words "General Assembly," insert the words "First, Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth), Second and Third Committees,".

Indicators of achievement

For indicator (a), replace the words "A high" with the words "Decrease in the", and replace the word "satisfaction" with the word "dissatisfaction".

Paragraph 1.4 (a)

After the words "intergovernmental bodies", insert the words "serviced by the Department".

Subprogramme 2
Planning, development and coordination of conference services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the beginning of accomplishment (d), insert the words "Strengthening of the responsibility and accountability system within the

Secretariat, in order to ensure the timely submission of documents for processing and".

Add a new expected accomplishment (e) reading: "(e) Increased provision of conference services to different major groupings and regional groups, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly decisions".

Indicators of achievement

For indicator (a) replace the words "A high" with words "Decrease in the", and replace the word "satisfaction" with the word "dissatisfaction".

For indicators (b) (i) and (b) (ii) replace the word "The" with the words "An increase in the".

For indicators (d) (i), (d) (ii), and (d) (iii) replace the word "The" with the words: "Decrease in the", and after the word "documents" insert the word "not".

Add a new indicator (e) reading: "(e) The percentage of meetings of major groupings and regional groups serviced by the Department".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Objective of the Organization

Amend the objective of the subprogramme by replacing the word "facilitate" with the words "ensure effective" and adding at the end of the sentence the words "equally in all the United Nations official languages".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of expected accomplishment (a), add the words "ensuring due respect for the specificity of each language".

At the beginning of expected accomplishment (b), insert the words: "Quality and".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) replace the words "A high percentage of" with the words "Absence of complaints by" and replace the words "expressing satisfaction with" with the words "as to the", and renumber the indicator as (a) (i).

Add new indicator (a) (ii) reading: "(ii) Efficient self-revision that is consistent with quality in all the official languages, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Objective of the Organization

Amend the objective of the subprogramme by replacing the word "facilitate" with the words "ensure effective" and adding at the end of the sentence the words "equally in all the United Nations official languages".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the beginning of accomplishment (b), insert the words: "Quality and".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a), replace the words "A high percentage of" with the words "Absence of complaints by" and replace the words "expressing satisfaction with" with the words "as to the".

The Committee did not agree on indicator (b) (ii) or on the following proposed amendments:

For indicator (b) (ii) replace the words "Increased proportion" with the word "Percentage".

Add a new indicator (b) (iii) reading: "(iii) Percentage of hard copies of printed documents".

B. C. and D. Conference management, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi

Subprogramme 2
Planning, development and coordination of conference services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the beginning of accomplishment (d), insert the words "Strengthening of the responsibility and accountability system within the Secretariat, in order to ensure the timely submission of documents for processing and".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a), replace the words "A high" with the words "Decrease in the", and replace the word "satisfaction" with the word "dissatisfaction".

In indicator (b), replace the words "A high" with the words "An increase in the".

For indicators (d) (i), (ii) and (iii), replace the word "The" with the words "Decrease in the" and after the word "documents" insert the word "not".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Objective of the Organization

Amend the objective by replacing the word "facilitate" with the words "ensure effective" and adding at the end of the sentence the words "equally in all the United Nations official languages".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of accomplishment (a), add the words "ensuring due respect for the specificity of each language".

At the beginning of accomplishment (b), insert the words "Quality and".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a), replace the words "A high percentage of" with the words "Absence of complaints by", and replace the words "expressing satisfaction with" with the words "as to the", and renumber the indicator as (a) (i).

Add a new indicator (a) (ii) reading: "(ii) Efficient self-revision that is consistent with quality in all official languages, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Objective of the Organization

Amend the objective by replacing the word "facilitate" with the words "ensure effective" and adding at the end of the sentence the words "equally in all the United Nations official languages".

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat

At the beginning of accomplishment (b) insert the words "Quality and".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a), replace the words "A high percentage of" with the words "Absence of complaints by", and replace the words "expressing satisfaction with" with the words "as to the".

Programme 2
Political affairs

72. At its 20th meeting, on 22 June, the Committee considered programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 2)).

73. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 2 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

74. Statements of appreciation and support were made for the work of the Department of Political Affairs carried out through its various subprogrammes and the good offices of the Secretary-General.

75. It was emphasized that the maintenance of international peace and security through assistance to States involved in disputes or conflict to resolve their differences peacefully was of paramount importance and represented a high-priority

issue. Support was expressed for activities focused on prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, as well as for post-conflict peace-building activities. It was stressed that conflict prevention was indispensable and more cost-effective than peacekeeping operations in maintaining international peace and security. It was also pointed out that conflict prevention required the commitment and involvement of many parts of the Secretariat and the United Nations system. The view was expressed that it was crucial for the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as well as other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to work together closely, both in conflict prevention and in post-conflict peace-building activities, in order to deliver an integrated and effective response.

76. Support was expressed for creating capacity for post-conflict peace-building activities and for the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and the need for Member States to provide related technical support was recognized. The view was also expressed that, in addition to the issue of terrorism, other issues, such as drug trafficking and crime prevention, were also important. The view was expressed that cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organizations, such as the African Union, in the areas of conflict prevention and peace-building should be supported.

77. Appreciation and support were expressed for the important work carried out by the Department in providing electoral assistance, especially on short notice, in countries where conflict situations had ended. Support was also expressed for the development of benchmarks for electoral assistance processes. The view was expressed that electoral assistance should also be provided during the preparatory phase of elections.

78. Support was expressed for the activities carried out by the United Nations with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The view was expressed that the work of the United Nations should continue until all the 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories became independent. Support was also expressed for the continued cooperation between the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the administering Powers.

79. Support was expressed for the activities carried out in relation to the question of Palestine. It was pointed out that the role of the Committee on Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was important and served as an important link between the United Nations and the Palestinian people. The view was expressed that resources devoted to activities relating to the question of Palestine should be redirected to activities that would be of direct benefit to the well-being of the Palestinian people.

80. Support was expressed for the United Nations role with regard to the Middle East peace process as well as for the "road map". It was pointed out that the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process had an important role to play both by itself and as part of the Quartet in promoting the Middle East peace process. It was also emphasized that achieving a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions was inevitable.

81. It was indicated that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further refinement.

Conclusions and recommendations

82. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 1
Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

Objective of the Organization

Revise the text of the objective to read as follows: "To assist in the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts through peaceful means as well as to promote a more cohesive and integrated response by the United Nations system in addressing post-conflict peace-building challenges facing countries emerging from crisis."

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Reletter the expected accomplishment as (a) and delete the words "of the international community".

Add a new expected accomplishment (b) reading: "(b) Improved capability to keep peace process on track once an agreement has been signed and to facilitate a durable peace".

Indicators of achievement

Renumber existing indicator (iii) as (i) and align it opposite new expected accomplishment (b).

Strategy

Paragraph 2.6

Delete sub-items (f) and (g) and insert the following new sub-item: "(f) providing substantive support and guidance to special political and peace-building missions, with the agreement of the Member States concerned, where appropriate; (g) strengthening the Department's capacity and expertise in order to address challenges to peace and security more effectively; (h) undertaking research on post-conflict issues and best practices by the United Nations system in this area; (i) developing coherent strategies for post-conflict peace-building, linking diplomatic, military, humanitarian and developmental efforts by the United Nations system and other international and regional actors. To this end, the Department of Political Affairs will work closely with other relevant parts of the United Nations system".

Subprogramme 2
Electoral assistance

Objective of the Organization

Revise the text of the objective to read as follows: "To render electoral assistance to Member States, at their request and in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, through the provision of necessary technical and advisory support for holding periodic and fair elections."

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat

Revise the accomplishment to read: "Enhanced capacity of Member States requesting assistance to organize periodic and fair elections".

Indicator of achievement

Revise the existing indicator to read: "Increased number of successful United Nations electoral assistance missions".

Strategy

Paragraph 2.7

Revise the third sentence to read: "The Division will assess the needs for the holding of elections in the requesting countries."

Subprogramme 3
Security Council affairs

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add a new accomplishment (d) reading: "(d) Efficient and timely organization and staffing of Security Council missions to countries of which the Council is seized".

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator of achievement (d) reading: "(d) Efficient and effective Security Council missions to countries of which the Council is seized".

Subprogramme 4
Decolonization

Objective of the Organization

Revise the text of the objective to read: "To promote the decolonization process in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly for the 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to bring about the complete eradication of colonialism."

Strategy

Paragraph 2.9

Revise the last sentence to read: "The issues related to decolonization are guided by the Charter, as well as by the principles of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly."

Subprogramme 5
Question of Palestine

Strategy

Add a new paragraph 2.12, as follows, and renumber the subsequent paragraphs: "2.12 The Department of Political Affairs will also conduct research and prepare analytical studies on the application and interpretation of the relevant articles of the Charter and implement General Assembly mandates regarding the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*."

Subprogramme 6
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

Objective of the Organization

Revise the existing objective to read: "To advance the Middle East peace process towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace".

Programme 3
Disarmament

83. At its 10th meeting, on 15 June, the Committee considered programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 3)).

84. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 3 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

85. The Committee welcomed the presentation of the programme narrative of programme 3. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, in particular its work on weapons of mass destruction. The Department was encouraged also to recognize the powerful and deadly effects of illicit small arms and light weapons. The view was expressed that there was no longer a need to single out nuclear weapons when referring to weapons of mass destruction. Concern was expressed that there was no programme narrative on the relationship between disarmament and development. The initiative of the Department to increase the use of the electronic media for the dissemination and exchange of information, in particular to the general public, especially in the developing world, was welcomed.

86. The concern was expressed that important elements which were included in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005[1] had been omitted. The views were also expressed that there was a lack of ambition in the logical framework; that the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should be further enhanced with a view to meeting the objectives; and that the usefulness of including

a gender mainstreaming element in all of the subprogrammes was questionable, in view of the action already being implemented by the United Nations as a whole.

87. The view was expressed that the maintenance and reinforcement of disarmament and non-proliferation and disarmament were two sides of the same issue, complementing each other, and should be pursued in tandem. It was stated that many multilateral treaties concerning disarmament, such as the biological and chemical weapons conventions, stipulated non-proliferation, and that proliferation, especially of weapons of mass destruction, was considered to constitute a threat to international peace and security, as affirmed in the Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and several resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. The view was also expressed that the importance of non-proliferation should be duly reflected in the biennial programme plan.

88. The view was also expressed that the programme plan should properly reflect the recommendations arising from the 2002 United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, which were addressed not only to States but to the United Nations and other international organizations.

89. The following amendments were proposed to programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 3.2

In the second sentence, delete the words "and relevant resolutions of the Security Council".

Paragraph 3.2

Delete the last sentence.

Paragraph 3.5

At the end of the paragraph add the following new sentence: "The Department will also assist Member States in increasing understanding among them of the relationship between disarmament and development."

Subprogramme 1
Multilateral negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament

In the title, after the word "disarmament", add the words "and non-proliferation".

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective to read: "To promote arms limitation and disarmament, to make every effort to ensure that, when multilateral agreements in the field of disarmament are negotiated, they will be universally acceptable, and to increase expertise in the field of arms limitation and disarmament in more Member States, in particular developing countries".

or

After the word "disarmament", add the words "and non-proliferation".

or

As reflected in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, revise the objective to read: "To promote arms limitation and disarmament, to make every effort to ensure that, when multilateral agreements in the field of disarmament are negotiated, they will be universally acceptable, and to increase expertise in the field of arms limitation and disarmament in more Member States, in particular developing countries."

or

Revise the objective to read: "To support multilateral negotiations and deliberations on arms limitation and disarmament agreements and provide support, as required by States parties, to the existing multilateral arms limitation and disarmament agreements."

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), replace the words "disarmament agreements" with the words "disarmament and non-proliferation agreements".

Indicators of achievement

Revise indicators (a) and (b) to read: "Feedback from delegations as to the standard of organizational and substantive services provided".

In indicator (c) (i), after the words "relevant draft resolution", add the words "and of participants in the programme".

Revise indicator (c) (ii) to read: "An increase in the number of applicants for the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme and greater support for the Disarmament Fellowship Programme by Member States".

Strategy

Paragraph 3.7

In subparagraph (c), after the word "disarmament", insert the words "and non-proliferation".

Add the following new subparagraph (f): "Provide Member States and international and non-governmental organizations with updated information and advisory services on arms control and disarmament".

Subprogramme 2
Weapons of mass destruction

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective, as reflected in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[1] to read: "To promote the efforts for nuclear disarmament and to assist Member States, as requested, in supporting existing treaties related to weapons of mass destruction".

or

After the word "disarmament" add the words "and non-proliferation".

After the word "systems", add the words "and to strive for their elimination, and to this end".

Before the words "to contribute", delete the word "and".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), after the word "disarmament", add the words "and non-proliferation".

Move accomplishment (b) to subprogramme 4.

Add a new accomplishment (b) reading: "(b) Enhance the assistance in the implementation of decisions, recommendations and programmes of action adopted by the conference and meetings of States parties to multilateral legally binding agreements related to weapons of mass destruction".

or

In accomplishment (b), delete the words "as well as on the potential threat of use of weapons of mass destruction and related materials in terrorist acts".

Indicators of achievement

Revise indicator (a) to read: "Feedback from delegations as to the standard of organizational and substantive services provided".

Move indicator (b) to subprogramme 4.

Add a new indicator (b) reading: "(b) An increase in the number of countries receiving assistance in the implementation of decisions, recommendations and programmes of action adopted by the conferences and meetings of States parties to multilateral legally binding agreements related to weapons of mass destruction".

Strategy

Paragraph 3.8

Revise subparagraph (a) to read: "Assisting and supporting Member States in their negotiations, deliberations and consensus-building for reducing and moving towards the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, as well as in global efforts to promote disarmament and non-proliferation and to prevent the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists".

or

Revise subparagraph (a) to read: "Assisting and supporting Member States in their negotiations, deliberations and consensus-building in the area of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and on their delivery systems, as well as assisting Member States, at their request, in their endeavours in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation".

In subparagraph (b), delete the words "and universalization" and, after the words "mass destruction", add the words "and their delivery systems".

Add a new subparagraph (c) reading "Assisting and supporting Member States in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)" and reletter existing subparagraphs (c), (d) and (e) as (d), (e) and (f).

In new subparagraph (d), after the words "Enhancing cooperation", add the words "in accordance with existing arrangements".

Subprogramme 3
Conventional arms (including practical disarmament measures)

Objective of the Organization

After the words "security posed by", add the words "the illicit trade".

or

As reflected in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[1] revise the objective to read: "To promote greater mutual confidence between Member States in the field of conventional arms and to address the destabilizing and excessive accumulation of and illicit trafficking in and manufacture of small arms and light weapons".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b) (i), replace the word "maintenance" with the word "increase" and replace the words "expansion of the scope" with the words "further improvement of the functioning".

In indicator (b) (ii), replace the words "Maintenance of" with the words "Increase in".

Strategy

Paragraph 3.9

Revise subparagraph (f) to read: "Supporting the continued operation and further development of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms".

Subprogramme 4
Monitoring, database and information

Objective of the Organization

As reflected in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[1] revise the objective to read: "To provide Member States and the public with objective, impartial and up-to-date information on disarmament activities".

or

After the word "disarmament", insert the words "and non-proliferation".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Insert the text of subprogramme 2, accomplishment (b), as new accomplishment (d), reading: "(d) Enhanced use by Member States of information on issues relating to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, including new trends and developments, as well as on

potential threat of use of mass destruction and related materials in terrorists acts".

Add a new expected accomplishment reading: "(d) Better preparedness of States to undertake multilateral deliberations and negotiations in the field of disarmament".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b), after the word "regional", insert the word "multilateral".

Add a new indicator reading: "(d) (i) A better flow of factual and objective information regarding various aspects of disarmament and easier access by end-users to such information (status of treaties, treaty obligations, progress in negotiations etc.)".

Insert the text of subprogramme 2, indicator of achievement (b), reading:

"(d) (ii) An increase in the number of requests to the Branch for background information, policy and analytical advice;

"(iii) An increase in the number of visits (page views) to the Branch's web page".

Strategy

Paragraph 3.10

At the end of subparagraph (a), add the words "and non-proliferation".

Subprogramme 5
Regional disarmament

Objective of the Organization

As reflected in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[1] revise the objective to read: "To promote and enhance international efforts towards global disarmament and international peace and security through the support and promotion of regional disarmament efforts and initiatives, using approaches freely arrived at among the States of the region and taking into account the legitimate requirements of States for self-defence and the specific characteristics of each region".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (c), replace the word "landmines" with the words "disarmament and non-proliferation".

or

Delete accomplishment (c).

Indicators of achievement

Delete indicator (c).

or

At the end of indicator (c) (i), add the words "particularly in the most mine-affected regions".

In indicator (c) (ii), after the words "number of requests for", add the words "and positive feedback on".

Legislative mandates

Add the following General Assembly decision:

58/521 Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

Conclusions and recommendations

90. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly allocate programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 to the First Committee for its review and action and for subsequent submission to the Fifth Committee for its consideration in the context of the overall proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 under the item entitled "Programme planning".**

Programme 4
Peacekeeping operations

91. At its 19th meeting, on 22 June, the Committee considered programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 4)).

92. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

93. General support was expressed for the programme of work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The view was expressed that activities of the programme represented one of the highest priorities of the Organization, and that they were in line with the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

94. The view was expressed that safety and security of staff in the field was a top priority and should be realized through the joint work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator and other organizations participating in the security management system. It was stressed that the integrated approach and greater coordination within the United Nations system and with external partners provided better preparedness for the recent surge in peacekeeping operations.

95. It was pointed out that there should be sufficient information for the effective implementation of peacekeeping operations, and emphasis should be placed on the continuous flow of information to and from Member States in all phases of peacekeeping operations. Concern was expressed about how the requirements of getting information on time and coordinating all operations in the field would be met.

96. The Committee welcomed the emphasis placed on training and gender mainstreaming by the Department. It was noted that recourse to training, in

particular specialized training, was an important element of the strategy for the plan period.

97. The importance of proper planning for the military components of peacekeeping operations was highlighted, together with the importance of establishing appropriate entry and exit strategies. It was noted that development and implementation of best practices from the use of force to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration was a key priority for the Department.

98. The Committee emphasized that police officers should be recruited in accordance with approved human resources management rules and procedures. Emphasis was placed on the engagement by the Department of regional and subregional organizations on policing issues, and the Committee encouraged the development of partnerships with national police academic institutions.

99. Satisfaction was expressed with the progress made in the implementation of the mine action advocacy strategy. The view was expressed that duplication should be avoided through coordinated efforts with programme 3, Disarmament.

100. The view was expressed that more attention should be given at the outset of peacekeeping missions to the preparation for transition to long-term peace and development.

101. It was indicated that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further refinement.

Conclusions and recommendations

102. **The Committee recommended that programme plans facilitate the efficient and cost-effective implementation of peacekeeping operations.**

103. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Before the heading "Overall orientation", add the heading "A. Peacekeeping operations".

Overall orientation

Paragraph 4.2

In the first sentence, replace the word "six" with the word "five" and replace the words "Mine Action Coordination and Peacekeeping Missions" with the words "and Mine Action Coordination".

Subprogramme 1
Operations

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace accomplishment (a) with the following: "(a) Provision of timely, informed advice and recommendations on issues related to peacekeeping to the Security Council, General Assembly, other intergovernmental bodies and troop-contributing and other contributing countries".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (b) (ii) with the following: "Number of successful structural arrangements with regional organizations as judged by mandate fulfilment".

Strategy

Paragraph 4.6

After the words "troop-contributing", add the words "and other contributing".

Paragraph 4.7

Revise the paragraph to read: "The United Nations faces increased challenges in planning for and effectively implementing the complex mandates that are often called for in peacekeeping operations today and in meeting the planning demands of surges in operational activity. The Office of Operations will seek to coordinate a fully integrated mission-planning process across all stakeholders within the United Nations system, producing a mission concept of operations and component plans that are fully understood, integrated and owned, both at Headquarters and in the field. Best practices and lessons learned will be implemented in the design, planning and implementation of new and existing missions. The safety and security of personnel working in peacekeeping operations will be accorded the highest priority, and to that end appropriate attention, both at Headquarters and in the field, will be given to information management, security assessment and risk and threat analysis. In addition, the Office of Operations will seek to promote regional peacekeeping capacity and organizational relationships and focus on partnerships to address cross-cutting issues."

Subprogramme 2
Mission support

Objective of the Organization

After the words "fulfil their mandates", add the words "efficiently and effectively".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b) (iii), after the words "the number of", add the words "applicable and effective".

After indicator (b) (iii), add the following new indicators:

"(iv) 100 per cent of international civilian staff have been given pre-deployment training, in-mission training and appropriate training and development

"(v) High percentage of senior staff present in the field at the commencement of the mission

"(vi) Streamlined process of civilian recruitment and reduction of waiting times".

Subprogramme 4
Civilian police

Objective of the Organization

Replace the words "United Nations criminal justice standards" with the words "accepted international standards".

Strategy

Paragraph 4.11

In the second sentence, after the words "In a post-conflict society", add the words "the re-establishment of the rule of law and", and at the end of the sentence, replace the words "sustainable peace" with the words "lasting peace".

In the third sentence, after the words "the Division develops", add the words "together with the Department's judicial and corrections experts".

Revise the fourth sentence to read: "With other relevant parts of the Department the Division engages in partnerships, particularly with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for the development of national policing institutions and judicial and corrections systems."

Paragraph 4.12

At the end of the paragraph, add the following new sentence: "The Division will consider how to further enhance efficient planning and early implementation of mandates."

Subprogramme 6
Peacekeeping missions

Revise the title above to read: "B. Peacekeeping missions".

Revise the subheading reading "A. United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)" to read: "1. United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)".

Revise the subheading reading "B. United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)" to read "2. United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)".

United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective to read: "To monitor developments pertaining to ceasefire violations along the line of control in accordance with the UNMOGIP mandate contained in Security Council resolution 307 (1971)".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Revise expected accomplishment (a) to read: "The presence of United Nations military observers in established UNMOGIP field stations on both sides of the line of control to monitor ceasefire violations".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the words "complaints by the parties in areas near the Line of Control" with the words "ceasefire violations".

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator (b) (i), add the words "to the extent permitted by the host countries".

Strategy

Paragraph 4.17

Revise the paragraph to read: "The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan will continue to provide timely and detailed routine reports as well as ad hoc reports on relevant developments in the UNMOGIP area of operations, in accordance with the implementation of its mandate."

Paragraph 4.18

In the first sentence, replace the words "parties' complaints regarding possible" with the word "alleged".

Delete the last two sentences and replace them with the following sentence: "The number of United Nations military observers may be adjusted among Headquarters and field stations in accordance with operational requirements."

Programme 5
Peaceful uses of outer space

104. At its 10th meeting, on 15 June, the Committee considered programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 5)).

105. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 5 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

106. General support was expressed for the programme. It was noted that the use of space technology should benefit all countries, in particular developing countries, and that capacity-building, dissemination of the benefits of space science, and technology for sustainable development were important elements of the programme. The view was expressed that there should be better linkage between the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement. The indicators of achievement should also be more focused. The importance of actions called for in

the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development was emphasized.

107. Clarification was sought regarding equitable access to the limited resources of outer space and the measures put in place to safeguard the space environment.

Conclusions and recommendations

108. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed biennial programme plan.**

Programme 6
Legal affairs

109. At its 21st meeting, on 23 June, the Committee considered programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 6)).

110. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 6 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

111. General appreciation and support were expressed for the work carried out by the Office of Legal Affairs through its various subprogrammes. Particular appreciation was expressed for the substantive and technical support provided by the Office to the Sixth Committee as well as to the International Law Commission. Support was also expressed for the intention of the Secretariat to provide legal and technical assistance to countries with economies in transition. The Committee welcomed the recent appointment of Nicolas Michel of Switzerland as Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel.

112. Satisfaction was expressed for the conciseness and high quality of the programme plan. The Committee noted that the International Law Commission and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) had yet to review the relevant subprogrammes and accordingly looked forward to receiving their comments during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

113. The Committee also noted that the General Assembly had accepted the proposal of the Secretary-General to strengthen the secretariat of UNCITRAL to better fulfil its mandate. The view was expressed that the work of UNCITRAL was not an area in which only legal specialists and business people had an interest but that it should also be viewed in the context of international peace and security.

114. The view was expressed that the provision of electronic services was the only means of managing the ever-increasing flow of information in a cost-efficient and user-friendly manner. The Treaty Section was commended for the significant progress achieved in the dissemination of information, in providing online access to its electronic publications and databases and on its very useful and informative web site.

115. The important role played by the Office in promoting better understanding and respect for the principles of international law was recognized. The view was expressed that Member States need to have timely access to and improved quality of

translation of documentation in all six official languages. This applied in particular to documentation pertaining to the Sixth Committee, the International Law Commission and UNCITRAL.

116. Clarification was sought concerning the omission of any reference to the preparation and publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*.

117. The view was expressed that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further refinement.

Conclusions and recommendations

118. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 1
Overall direction, management and coordination of legal advice and services to the United Nations as a whole

Objective of the Organization

The text should read: "To assist the principal organs of the United Nations in enhancing respect for the rule of law."

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

The text should read: "Provision of qualitative and timely legal advice, thus facilitating the functioning of the principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations in accordance with international law, including the United Nations legal regime".

Indicators of achievement

Delete indicator of achievement (b).

Strategy

Paragraph 6.9

The first sentence should read: "A further objective of the subprogramme is to assist the ad hoc international tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, as subsidiary organs of the United Nations, to operate in accordance with the Charter, regulations, rules and policies of the United Nations and as judicial organs, to act within their statutes."

Subprogramme 2
General legal services provided to the United Nations organs and programmes

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of expected accomplishment (a), add the following: "and minimization of the number of disputes and other legal difficulties".

Strategy

Paragraph 6.10

Sub-item (b) should read: "(b) the provision of advice on the interpretation of certain articles of the Charter, General Assembly resolutions and decisions, the regulations, rules and mandates of programmes and activities in which United Nations organs and bodies are engaged and the interpretation of other administrative issuances of the Secretariat."

Subprogramme 3
Progressive development and codification of international law

Objective of the Organization

The text should read: "To facilitate the progressive development and codification of international law."

Indicators of achievement

Add the following indicator of achievement: "(b) (iii) Proposals and measures, in cooperation with universities and other institutions, if appropriate, aimed at reducing the backlog in the publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*".

Subprogramme 4
Law of the sea and ocean affairs

Objective of the Organization

The text should read: "To promote the universal acceptance and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea."

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Expected accomplishment (a) should read: "(a) Improved uniformity and consistency in the application of the Convention and the agreements".

Indicators of achievement

Indicator (a) (ii) should read: "Increased participation of Member States in meetings related to oceans and the law of the sea and in particular in meetings of the informal consultative process."

Subprogramme 5
Progressive harmonization, modernization and unification of the law of international trade

Objective of the Organization

Replace the words "To ensure" with the words "To facilitate and encourage".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the beginning of expected accomplishments (a) and (b), add the words "Contributions to the".

Subprogramme 6
Custody, registration and publication of treaties

Objective of the Organization

The text should read: "To facilitate wider awareness of the international treaties concluded under the auspices of the United Nations".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Expected accomplishment (b) should read: "(b) Promotion of broader State participation in the multilateral treaty framework".

Programme 7
Economic and social affairs

119. At its 14th and 15th meetings, on 17 and 18 June, the Committee considered programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 7)).

120. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 7 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

121. Strong support was expressed for the programme, its objectives and subprogrammes, and the view was expressed that the narratives were comprehensive.

122. It was also noted that the overall orientation provided a good and balanced overview of the programme for economic and social affairs, including the general framework for poverty eradication and development provided by the United Nations conferences of the 1990s, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. References to civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, throughout the programme and in particular in subprogramme 1, were noted with appreciation, and a suggestion was made to reflect the important role that civil society plays in development. The important role that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs can play to facilitate initiatives to eradicate poverty and hunger and to promote human and social development, such as the International Humanitarian Fund and the Zero-Hunger Project, was emphasized.

123. Agreement was expressed with regard to the programme's emphasis on follow-up of the high-level review in 2005 on the progress achieved on the Millennium Declaration, with particular emphasis on implementation. The multidisciplinary approach that the Department pursues in the design and implementation of its activities was commended.

124. A question was raised regarding the need to undertake further assessment of the quantity as well as the quality of Department of Economic and Social Affairs publications. The importance and usefulness of the Department's technical cooperation programme was recognized. At the same time, the view was expressed that a system-wide review of technical cooperation activities, with a view to maximizing synergies and minimizing duplication, was anticipated. Such a review would allow a fuller analysis of the value added by the Department's technical cooperation activities. Views were expressed that some of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the programme could be improved, while the formulation of others was welcomed. The view was also expressed that the indicators for several subprogrammes placed too much emphasis on the number of resolutions, decisions and recommendations.

125. Support was expressed for strengthening the mandate of the Economic and Social Council in the context of the overall reform of the United Nations. In that context, the view was expressed that it was necessary to streamline the Organization and to pursue effective management.

126. A question was raised as to how the overall guidance and coordination roles of the Economic and Social Council would be reinforced and how the programme would strengthen its capacity to support the Council's activity in post-conflict reconstruction. The importance of strengthening the existing coordination of all aspects of cooperation between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations agencies and regional commissions was stressed.

127. The importance of gender mainstreaming across all subprogrammes of programme 7 was underscored.

128. Satisfaction was expressed with regard to the contribution of the subprogramme to improving the ability of Member States to reassess macroeconomic policies with the aim of giving employment generation and poverty reduction a central place in the goals of macroeconomic policy. The view was expressed that the eradication of hunger should be included in the objective of subprogramme 3. It was proposed that a separate expected accomplishment should be developed on indigenous issues under subprogramme 3.

129. A definition of "persons in situations of conflict" was requested, and the view was expressed that subprogramme 3 had no mandate for work on persons in situations of conflict.

130. The view was expressed that subprogramme 3 should take into greater account the process of globalization and, in that regard, the work of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization should be mentioned.

131. The responsibility for supporting the Commission for Social Development, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities should be mentioned in the strategy of subprogramme 3.

132. The view was expressed that in the preparation and consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, due consideration should be given to the follow-up by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly during the biennium of the major event to be held in 2005 and the

allocation, for that purpose, of the necessary financial and human resources, while maintaining the level of budget

133. A question was raised concerning how Member States' satisfaction was measured with respect to the quality of support provided to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant intergovernmental processes. Clarification was sought on the reference to strengthening cooperation with major groups, and the view was expressed that the scope of expected accomplishment (b) under subprogramme 4 should extend beyond energy and water and include sustainable production and consumption. The importance of the regional implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was emphasized, and a request was made to reflect the implementation modalities in the strategic framework. The view was also expressed that a separate expected accomplishment on small island developing States should be established under subprogramme 4.

134. Clarification was sought on the role played by the regional commissions in enhancing the capability of national statistical offices in expected accomplishment (c) of subprogramme 5. It was pointed out that statistical publications should disaggregate data by age and sex whenever possible. The importance of increasing the capacity of the Statistics Division to collect and report statistical data on Member States was emphasized. Strengthening information on how the outputs of the Division are used by other divisions, as well as coordination mechanisms with other multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank and other regional institutions, was recommended. It was proposed that the work of subprogramme 5 on geographical names be reflected more distinctly.

135. The view was expressed that the subprogramme should collaborate with other entities within and outside the United Nations system in collecting and analysing country information on conflict and post-conflict situations.

136. A clearer account was requested of how the impact and value added by activities of subprogramme 8 were to be measured.

137. The orientation of subprogramme 10, regarded as a critically important area of the programme, was welcomed. It was suggested that percentages and impact, rather than absolute numbers, be used as indicators of achievement.

138. The importance of creating an enabling environment through the promotion of good governance was stressed. The view was expressed that the subprogramme did not have the resources to carry out capacity-building at the country level. It was also noted that the work on international tax cooperation should properly be reflected in subprogramme 10. Proposals were made to add references to specific recent national and subregional initiatives related to the financing for development process in the strategic framework of the subprogramme.

139. The view was expressed that, although concerted efforts and concrete action by the international community were necessary for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other development goals and ensuring the level of official development assistance was surely important, too much focus was currently being placed on quantitatively increasing official development assistance, which did not automatically bring about expected accomplishment (b) of subprogramme 10. In that context, the importance of capacity development was emphasized. It was further noted that, as stated at the International Conference on Financing for Development, it was important to mobilize and utilize not only official development assistance, but

also domestic resources in developing countries, foreign direct investment and private resources, in a consistent manner, to achieve the economic growth necessary for the alleviation of poverty.

Conclusions and recommendations

140. **The Committee drew attention to the importance of cooperation and coordination between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other agencies, funds, programmes and Secretariat structures, in particular regional commissions.**

141. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 7.1

After the words "sustained economic growth", add the words ", poverty eradication".

Paragraph 7.3

The third sentence should read: "Secondly, it reviews development issues and policies to deepen the international community's understanding of global challenges in the economic and social spheres and to assist Member States to reach consensus on the most appropriate responses to those challenges."

Paragraph 7.5

In the second sentence, replace the words "poverty eradication" with the words "the eradication of poverty and hunger".

Subprogramme 1
Economic and Social Council support and coordination

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of accomplishment (c), add the words ", as mandated by the Economic and Social Council".

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator (b) (ii), add the words ", in accordance with recent decisions".

At the end of indicator (c), add the words ", as mandated by the Council".

Strategy

Paragraph 7.7

At the end of subparagraph (c), add the words ", as mandated by the Economic and Social Council, and developing strategies to address the development dimension of post-conflict situations".

Insert a new subparagraph (e) reading: "(e) Better use of the regular consultations provided for in paragraph 43 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997, including between the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council; the Secretary-General will provide those meetings with support as appropriate, including written information to Member States submitted through the Chairmen of the regional groups."

Subprogramme 2
Gender issues and advancement of women

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator (e) (ii), add the following: ", with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, taking into account the underrepresentation of women from certain countries".

Subprogramme 3
Social policy and development

Objective of the Organization

Delete the words "persons in situations of conflict".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Accomplishment (b) should read: "(b) Strengthening of the capacity of Member States to develop and implement effective social programmes and policies, in particular in the field of social integration of older persons, persons with disabilities, family and youth".

Replace accomplishment (c) with paragraph 7.17 (c) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[1] which reads: "Better understanding and awareness by Governments, civil society and the private sector with regard to emerging issues in the field of social development, including gender issues, particularly through improved and timely access by Governments, non-governmental organizations, academia and individuals to United Nations research and analysis in the field of social development".

Strategy

Paragraph 7.9

In subparagraph (a), replace the words: "Promoting greater awareness and supporting implementation of the mandates contained in the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences, especially the World Summit for Social Development, the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and the Millennium Summit" with the words: "Promoting greater awareness of and supporting the integrated follow-up of and the implementation within the overall orientation provided by the United Nations Millennium Declaration of the commitments agreed upon at relevant United Nations conferences and summits, especially the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly".

Replace subparagraph (d) with the following: "Raising civil society awareness and facilitating civil society support for the work of the United Nations on social development."

Subprogramme 4
Sustainable development

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator (b) (ii), add the following text: ", including Commission on Sustainable Development-registered partnerships for sustainable development".

In indicator (d), after the words "major groups", add the words "and the number of participants attending the sessions of the Commission".

Strategy

Paragraph 7.10

Replace subparagraph (b) with the following: "(b) Providing substantive and effective support, including the development of policy options and analysis, to intergovernmental processes, in particular to the Commission on Sustainable Development, including regional implementation meetings to be implemented by the regional commissions in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission".

Subprogramme 5
Statistics

Objective of the Organization

Replace the words "internationally agreed development goals and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, and specifically the Millennium Development Goals" with the words "internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), replace the words "the Millennium Declaration Goals and targets" with the words "internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992".

In accomplishment (e), after the words "mapping activities" add the words "and the standardization of geographical names".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (ii), replace the words "the Millennium Development Goals and targets" with the words "internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium

Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992".

Under indicator (a), add a new indicator to read: "(iii) An increase in the number of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries in transition providing more complete data to the publications of the Statistics Division".

Strategy

Paragraph 7.11

In subparagraph (f), after the words "modern surveying", add the words "and the standardization of geographical names".

Subprogramme 6
Population

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (c), after the words "Improved accessibility of population information", add the words "in a timely manner".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b), delete the words "and relevance".

Subprogramme 7
Global development trends, issues and policies

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Accomplishment (c) should read: "Enhanced exchanges of views and ideas on development issues with non-governmental actors, including increased awareness among such actors of United Nations analysis of development issues and their increased contribution to United Nations policy development".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b), replace the words "The number of official statements and discussions in" with the words "The number of decisions taken by".

Subprogramme 8
Public administration, finance and development

Strategy

Paragraph 7.14

In subparagraph (a), replace the word "approach" with the word "understanding".

Subprogramme 10
Financing for development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Delete accomplishment (b).

In accomplishment (d), after the words "finance and trade organizations and initiatives", insert the words ", including at the regional level,".

Indicators of achievement

Indicator (a) should read: "The number of contributions from all stakeholders in the financing for development process to the annual assessment of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus".

Delete indicator (b).

In indicator (d), between the words "institutions" and "as well as", add the words ", including at the regional level".

Programme 8
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

142. At its 17th meeting, on 21 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 8)).

143. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 8 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

144. Support was expressed for the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in mobilizing and coordinating international support for the implementation of the three programmes of action, and the Office was encouraged to continue to strengthen its collaboration and coordination with other entities of the United Nations system in order to better achieve its objectives.

145. The view was expressed that the priority objective of the Office should be a decrease in the number of least developed countries and a real decrease in the needs of the three groups of countries. It was felt that increased attention should be given to the concerns of the least developed countries, and it was noted that the mandate of the programme was to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of the three programmes of action.

146. Concern was expressed about the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, and the Office was urged to increase its coordinating role.

147. The view was expressed that the mechanism through which the neighbouring countries of the landlocked developing countries would collaborate in the Almaty Programme of Action should be enhanced.

148. The question of the assistance provided by the Office to the least developed countries during the graduation process was raised. It was noted that the Office was not directly responsible for assisting the least developed countries to graduate from that category, but that its role was to coordinate with the United Nations entities involved in order to ensure a smooth transition during the graduation process.

149. Some members of the Committee emphasized that the Office should be equipped with adequate resources to enable it to discharge its mandate to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and enhance its cooperation and coordination with United Nations and other relevant organizations, particularly those engaged in operational activities on the ground in landlocked and transit developing countries.

150. The view was expressed that each programme of action had specific indicators of achievement and measurable expected accomplishments, and that the logical framework as described would provide reliable baseline data against which the performance of the Office could be measured. At the same time, the view was expressed that in using the indicators greater attention should be given to qualitative aspects.

Conclusions and recommendations

151. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

After paragraph 8.3, insert a new paragraph reading:

"8.4. The overall programme of work of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States is designed around three interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, namely, subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, and subprogramme 3, Small island developing States."

Delete the logframe and the heading "Strategy".

Paragraph 8.4

Renumber paragraph 8.4 as 8.5, and at the end of the paragraph add the following new subparagraph: "(j) Outreach to all stakeholders, including partnerships with civil society and the private sector."

New subprogramme 1

Add the following new subprogramme:

"Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

"Objective of the Organization: To improve the quality of lives of people in least developed countries by strengthening their abilities to build a better future for themselves and develop their countries.

"Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

"(a) Enhanced awareness of the special needs of the least developed countries and increased support and resources for the least developed countries at the global level

"(b) Focused advocacy and building of partnerships with all development partners in favour of least developed countries

"(c) Enhanced coordination with United Nations entities, other international and multilateral organizations to increase the mainstreaming of the Brussels Programme of Action in their respective programmes

"Indicators of achievement

"(a) (i) Number of declarations, resolutions and decisions at the global and regional levels in favour of least developed countries

"(ii) Effective participation of least developed countries in the global review through increased participation and statements at intergovernmental bodies

"(b) Increase flows of external resources, debt relief and trade preferences to least developed countries

"(c) (i) Increase number of United Nations entities and other international and multilateral organizations which mainstream and report on the Brussels Programme of Action to their respective governing bodies

"(ii) Increase support to the capacity-building of the national mechanisms for the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action by the United Nations system

"(iii) Increase effective involvement of the resident coordinator system and the United Nations Development Group in country-level implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action

"(iv) Number of joint activities including task forces, workshops, seminars, panels, briefings and publications".

After new subprogramme 1, insert the heading "Strategy", and add the following new paragraph:

"8.6. In order to achieve the above objective, the strategy of the Least Developed Countries Unit will focus on:

"(a) Enhancing implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action by both least developed countries and their development partners;

"(b) Increasing support from the donor community for an effective and full participation of the least developed countries in the intergovernmental processes;

"(c) Increasing linkages with United Nations agencies and other international organizations for their mainstreaming of the Brussels Programme of Action."

New subprogramme 2

After paragraph 8.6, insert the following new subprogramme:

"Subprogramme 2
Landlocked developing countries

"Objective of the Organization: To ensure effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries with a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries.

"Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

"(a) Establishment of coordinating mechanisms for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action

"(b) Increased coordinated assistance for implementing specific actions in the five priority areas set out in the Almaty Programme of Action

"Indicators of achievement

"(a) (i) Increase in the number of national, subregional and international level follow-up and coordination mechanisms established

"(ii) Increase in the number of specific actions, such as standardization and simplification procedures for border crossing, by United Nations organizations as well as the transit developing countries and donor countries

"(b) Increased number of joint programmes to further develop transit infrastructure and their efficient use".

After new subprogramme 2, insert the heading "Strategy" and add the following new paragraph:

"8.7. In order to achieve the above objective, the strategy of the Landlocked Developing Countries Unit will focus on:

"(a) Supporting the building of partnerships towards the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action by establishing coordinating mechanisms for the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional and global levels;

"(b) Improving linkages between other parts of the United Nations system and focal points in individual organizations and the relevant subregional, regional and other international organizations, and enhancing the cooperation and coordination of the United Nations system with them, particularly with those engaged in operational activities on the ground in landlocked and transit developing countries;

"(c) Monitor and coordinate implementation of specific actions and initiatives aimed at establishing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries."

New subprogramme 3

After paragraph 8.7, insert the following new subprogramme:

"Subprogramme 3
Small island developing States

"Objective of the Organization: To advocate and assist in mobilizing international support for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

"Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

"Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and outcomes of the international meeting to review its implementation

"Indicators of achievement

"Number of United Nations, other international organizations and donors according special focus to small islands developing States issues"

After new subprogramme 3, insert the heading "Strategy" and add the following new paragraph:

"8.8. In order to achieve the above objective, the strategy of the Small Island Developing States Unit will focus on:

"(a) Advocating for the mobilization of financial and technical resources in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"(b) Working closely with United Nations agencies, other international organizations including regional organizations, the donor community and civil society, to ensure proper mainstreaming of priorities identified by the General Assembly."

Legislative mandates

Replace the legislative mandates with the following text:

General Assembly resolutions

55/2 United Nations Millennium Declaration

Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

General Assembly resolutions

55/279 **Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010**

56/227 **Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

57/276 **Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

58/228 **Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2002/33 **Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010**

2003/17 **Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010**

Economic and Social Council decision

2001/320 **Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010**

Subprogramme 2
Landlocked developing countries

General Assembly resolutions

56/180 **Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries**

58/201 **Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries**

Subprogramme 3
Small island developing States

General Assembly resolutions

56/198 **Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

57/262 **Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

58/213 **Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

Programme 9
United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

152. At its 21st meeting, on 23 June, the Committee considered programme 9, United Nations Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog.9)).

153. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

154. Strong support was expressed for the programme and appreciation was expressed for the role and contributions made so far by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in the very short time since the office had been established.

155. Concern was expressed that the situation of Africa continued to require great support from the international community in order to reach the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. While appreciation was expressed for the assistance and support of the United Nations system, it was noted that further efforts were required by the international community and the United Nations system since the Millennium Development Goals, indicators for sub-Saharan Africa showed a worsening trend. The importance of programme 9 was emphasized, as well as the link between the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the achievement of the Goals.

156. The view was expressed that the interface of this programme with that of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries should be established in accordance with the existing resolutions.

157. The need was expressed for the intensification of efforts by African countries, with support from the international community, including the United Nations system, to bring a durable peace and sustainable development to Africa.

158. The view was expressed that the mandate of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to review and report on the coordinated implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summit meetings and conferences should be adequately referred to in programme 9 of the strategic framework. The responsibility of the Office for the coordinated preparation of reports on Africa should be better highlighted in subprogramme 1.

159. It was expressed that a reference to the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD and its importance should be made in programme 9 of the proposed strategic framework.

160. Appreciation was expressed for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process, for which the Office was one of the co-organizers, as an instrument in support of Africa's development in general and the promotion of South-South cooperation in particular. References were made to other initiatives which enhanced South-South cooperation, including the Asia-Africa Subregional Organization Conference, the Havana Declaration and Programme of Action and the

Marrakech Declaration and Framework. Trade and foreign direct investment were mentioned as key elements of South-South cooperation. Queries were raised on the indicator proposed for South-South cooperation, and the view was expressed that only those forums that dealt with South-South cooperation in support of NEPAD should be recorded.

161. It was generally acknowledged that it was difficult to establish measurable indicators under programme 9 in view of the nature of the mandate involved; hence, a number of suggestions for measurable indicators were made. The Committee, however, expressed the hope that the indicators could be refined and improved to better reflect action, results and value achieved.

162. The view was expressed that the references to NEPAD indicators of achievement under subprogramme 1 should not be merely to its structure and secretariat but rather to the policy and programme development of NEPAD priority areas.

163. The importance of working closely with the Bretton Woods institutions and the Global Coordination for Africa in the implementation of the programme was stressed.

164. Much appreciation was expressed for the role of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in the regional cooperation and coordination of the United Nations system for the implementation of NEPAD and regional consultations as an effective inter-agency coordination mechanism. The concrete projects and programmes developed by ECA in various NEPAD priority areas was acknowledged. ECA was encouraged to develop joint programming and to increase joint regional activities and programmes with regional and subregional organizations.

165. The need was expressed to increase cooperation between ECA and other regional and subregional organizations, which should be reflected as a part of the strategy for subprogramme 2. An assessment of achievements made by these organizations should also be included.

166. The operationalization of NEPAD at the country level was crucial for African countries and their people, as well as at the regional and subregional levels. As a result, it was suggested that the role of ECA in supporting the implementation at the country level should be sufficiently addressed in subprogramme 2.

167. The importance of subprogramme 3 was acknowledged as a means of mobilizing international awareness and support for the development of Africa through the existing Department of Public Information network and media, hence the need for effective coordination between the Department and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa was emphasized in order to achieve the overall objective of global advocacy in support for Africa's development. The use of United Nations radio and news, as well as non-United Nations international and African media were therefore recommended as possible indicators of achievement.

Conclusions and recommendations

168. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 9, United Nations Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Throughout the programme, replace the words "African development" with the words "Africa's development".

Subprogramme 1
Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (iv), replace the words "African development in their development agenda" with the words "Africa's development in development assistance agendas".

Under indicator (a), add a new indicator reading: "(v) An increase in the number of implemented recommendations incorporated in General Assembly resolutions on Africa's development through NEPAD".

Revise indicator (d) (ii) to read "An increase in the number of civil society organizations, including the private sector, involved in the support for implementation of NEPAD".

Strategy

Paragraph 9.8

In the first sentence, replace the words "and the Global Coalition for Africa" with the words "the Global Coalition for Africa and the Africa Partnership Forum".

Subprogramme 2
Regional coordination of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Indicators of achievement

Reletter indicator (a) to read (a) (i).

Add a new indicator (a) (ii) reading: "The number of overlapping programmes that are merged".

Reletter indicator (b) to read (b) (i).

Add a new indicator (b) (ii) reading: "An increase in the number of programmes and projects implemented under these memorandums of understanding".

Reletter indicator (c) to read (c) (i).

Add a new indicator (c) (ii) reading: "An increased percentage of countries which express their satisfaction for regional and subregional support in the implementation of NEPAD in the field".

Programme 10
Trade and development

169 At its 17th meeting, on 21 June, the Committee considered programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 10)).

170. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

171. Support was expressed for the programme of work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC). The role of UNCTAD as the principal entity of the United Nations for trade and development was emphasized. It was mentioned that the cooperation among UNCTAD, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization should be enhanced. Emphasis was placed on the better integration of developing countries into the world economy as well as on market access for the products of developing countries.

172. The importance and usefulness of the technical assistance activities, as well as the increasing demand for such services, was recognized.

173. The efforts to support Africa's economic development and integration into the world economy were welcomed. UNCTAD was urged to treat the problem of debt in the developing countries as a priority. It was mentioned that UNCTAD has the capacity to assist countries in the management of their debt through its debt management and financial analysis system programme. The view was expressed that the concerns of developing countries should receive particular attention.

174. The question of the status of the review of the biennial programme plan by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of UNCTAD was raised. The representative of the Secretary-General clarified that the Working Party had met before the eleventh session of UNCTAD in order to review the biennial programme plan of programme 10, Trade and development, for the period 2006-2007 (subprogrammes 1 to 5). Since it could not conclude its work due to pending issues in the São Paolo negotiating process, the Working Party had agreed to meet again after the conference, on 5 July 2004, in order to finalize its review on the basis of the final outcome of the Conference. The outcome of the review of the Working Party would then be transmitted to the Committee in accordance with established procedure. As to subprogramme 6, it was understood that the subprogramme had been reviewed in May 2004 by the Joint Advisory Group, which had recommended the inclusion of a reference to the Millennium Development Goals in the overall orientation of the subprogramme.

175 The view was expressed that the question of coordination with other entities of the United Nations system, such as the Office of the United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Islands Developing States and the regional commissions, should be reflected in the strategic framework. The view was also expressed that the objective of assisting countries in meeting challenges of trade and investment should be further strengthened.

176. It was mentioned that the objective under subprogramme 1 could be improved through a reference to the efforts of UNCTAD to reduce the negative impact of globalization. It was also mentioned that a reference to the countries with economies in transition should be included under the same subprogramme.

177. The view was expressed that UNCTAD had a role to play in the graduation process of the least developed countries, and that a reference to strengthen the capacity of least developed countries could be inserted under subprogramme 5.

178. The work of UNCTAD on the *Least Developed Countries Report* was commended. The view was expressed that the *Report* should be issued on an annual basis, since it was recognized to be very informative and to help the least developed countries to better deal with their problems.

Conclusions and recommendations

179. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly consider at its fifty-ninth session the proposed strategic framework for programme 10, Trade and development, in the light of the recommendations made by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of UNCTAD at its resumed forty-second session.**

180. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly allocate programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 to the Second Committee for its review and action and for subsequent submission to the Fifth Committee for its consideration in the context of the overall proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 under the item entitled "Programme planning".**

Programme 11
Environment

181. At its 16th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee considered programme 11, Environment, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 11)).

182. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 11 and informed the Committee that there was a high degree of continuity between the proposed biennial programme plan for 2006-2007 and the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[1] with some adjustments. Those adjustments reflect the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. In addition, greater emphasis has been placed on implementation, especially at the regional and subregional levels, and on meeting the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also aims in the biennium 2006-2007 to improve its scientific capacity in order to provide accurate environmental assessments to inform policy decisions. The representative also responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

183. Support was expressed for programme 11. The view was expressed that the programme narratives were the result of intensive consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP in Nairobi. The work of UNEP was commended for the contribution UNEP had made in meeting environmental challenges, especially in Africa.

184. The views were expressed that some of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the programme could be improved, that the indicators of achievement should be qualitative as well as quantitative and that qualitative indicators of achievement should be introduced. The view was also expressed that the indicators of achievement of the programme were neither quantifiable nor measurable.

185. The view was expressed that, without prejudice to the outcome of the negotiation that would soon commence in the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building, capacity-building activities by UNEP should be pursued with vigour.

186. Appreciation was expressed for the greater role played by UNEP on the complementarity between the poverty-alleviating objectives of the multilateral environmental agreements and their interlinkages with the internationally agreed development goals and the continuity of the programme.

187. The view was also expressed that the concept of human security referred to in expected accomplishment (a) of subprogramme 1 was a concept that had not been endorsed by any intergovernmental body. Another view was expressed that environmental catastrophes and environmental preparedness should be included in subprogramme 1.

188. Questions were raised about the meaning of the term "major groups" contained in paragraphs 11.12 and 11.16, and the terms "public and private sector" in expected accomplishment (a) and "local and national authorities" in indicator of achievement (a) of subprogramme 4. Support was expressed for the international community response for non-polluting industries referred to in subprogramme 4. The views were also expressed that there had not been intergovernmental agreement on the Global Compact Initiative, and that the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement reflecting technological development should be improved in subprogramme 4.

189. The view was expressed that there should be a reference to the UNEP guidelines on compliance and enforcement in subprogramme 6. The view was also expressed that in order to avoid duplication and efficient use of resources, sustainable development and global environmental issues should be well coordinated. The view was expressed that, although reference had been made in subprogramme 6 to regional seas programmes and conventions, no mention had been made in subprogramme 6 on regional mountains.

Conclusions and recommendations

190. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 11, Environment, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 11.10

In the second sentence, after the word "subregional", insert the word "environmental".

Subprogramme 1
Environmental assessment and early warning

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of accomplishment (a), replace the words "human security" with the words "survival, dignity and livelihood of individuals".

Subprogramme 4
Technology, industry and economics

Objective of the Organization

After the word "strategies", add the word "technologies".

Expected accomplishments

In accomplishment (a), after the word "water", add the word "resources".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (i), after the word "water", insert the word "resources".

In indicator (c) (ii), after the word "Conventions", delete the words "in force and".

Subprogramme 5
Regional cooperation and representation

Strategy

Paragraph 11.19

In subparagraph (a), after the word "regional", add the word "interregional".

Subprogramme 6
Environmental conventions

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (e), after the word "UNEP", delete the word "headquarters".

Strategy

Paragraph 11.20

Subparagraph (a) should read: "To support the ratification and promote the implementation and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, giving priority to those administered by UNEP and taking into account the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and taking into account the UNEP guidelines on compliance with and enforcements of multilateral environmental agreements".

In subparagraph (e), replace the words "conventions and action plans" with the words "conventions, action plans, regional mountain agreements".

Subprogramme 7
Communications and public information

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b), delete the word "voluntary" before the word "initiatives".

Programme 12
Human settlements

191. At its 16th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee considered programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 12)).

192. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 12, informing the Committee that the substance remained essentially the same as in the 2002-2005 medium-term plan, as revised,[1] with minor adjustments to the objectives of subprogrammes 2, 3 and 4 in order to reflect new mandates, the most important of which derived from the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The representative also responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

193. Support was expressed for programme 12 and the work programme was commended. The contribution of UN-Habitat in drawing global attention to the ills of homelessness, a condition afflicting all societies, rich and poor alike, was applauded. Support for the work of UN-Habitat in fighting urban poverty, as well as the campaigns on secure tenure and good governance, was expressed.

194. The view was expressed that, as in other programmes, the links between programme 12 and other organizations were not included. The view was expressed that UN-Habitat should continue its effort to avoid duplication of activities through the consolidation of changes and the identification of programme priorities. Concern was expressed that the World Urban Forum, an important event in the UN-Habitat calendar, had not been included in the biennial programme plan.

195. Concern was expressed about whether the continuing deterioration of shelter and human settlements would be addressed, especially the unrelenting challenges of inadequate housing, unemployment, poor sanitary conditions and infrastructure, which demanded a more coordinated and effective response in order to confront the phenomenon of slums and to achieve the goal of significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020. Support was expressed for the efforts of UN-Habitat to support information exchange and partnerships among developing country partners dealing with the challenges posed by slums.

196. As with other programmes reviewed, concern was expressed as to how the indicators of achievement would be measured. Indicator (b) (iii) under subprogramme 2, Monitoring the Habitat Agenda, was seen as important and necessary; hence the view was expressed that it should blend with subprogramme 3 and contribute to the objective of strengthening the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and the development of capacities at the national and local levels on a regional basis.

197. The involvement of the United Nations Human Settlements Foundation in mobilizing resources and promoting partnerships for improving human settlements for poor and low-income people was saluted, while concern was expressed on the stability of funding for the programme.

198. Appreciation was expressed about information exchanges and partnerships among development partners, including the involvement of the private sector to build capacity, create employment and upgrade slums, which was seen as essential for slum-upgrading activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

199. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 12.4

At the end of the last sentence, add the words "including the following programmes and agencies, within their respective mandates: the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Global Environment Facility, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs".

Programme 13
International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice

200. At its 15th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee considered programme 13, International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 13)).

201. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 13 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

202. Support was expressed for the biennial programme plan under programme 13, International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as for the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

203. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was commended for its efforts on gender mainstreaming, raising public awareness and working with civil society. High importance was attached to the problem of human trafficking.

204. Appreciation was expressed for the organizational reform in the Office on Drugs and Crime and the priority established for efficient operations.

205. Concern was expressed regarding the negative impact of its high dependence on extrabudgetary resources on the implementation of the programme. In this regard, delegations stressed the need for a global approach to the impact of the mode of financing of the different programmes on their capacity to fully implement all mandated programmes and activities.

206. A view was expressed that under the heading "Strategy" for subprogramme 1, Research, analysis and advocacy, a campaign of public information for children and youth is needed. The view was also expressed that no clear reference had been made under the subprogramme to other crimes at the regional level.

207. The view was expressed that some of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements of the programme were vague and could be improved. The view was also expressed that the indicators of achievement should be qualitative as well as quantitative.

208. Concern was expressed about the use of the phrase "human security".

Conclusions and recommendations

209. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 13, International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 13.1

Replace the fifth sentence with the following: "It is also important to free individuals from the burden of 'uncivil' behaviour in order to safeguard their survival, dignity and livelihood."

New paragraph

Add a new paragraph 13.2 reading: "Actions against world drug problem, global criminal activity and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are a common and shared responsibility that must be addressed in a multilateral setting and require an integrated and balanced approach.", and renumber all subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Paragraph 13.2

In item (a), the words "international legal instruments" should read "universal legal instruments".

Move item (d) to follow item (a), reletter the subsequent items and add the following item: "(e) the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Tenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (General Assembly resolution 55/59, annex), the related plans of action (General Assembly resolution 56/261, annex) and the recommendations resulting from the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (to be held in Bangkok in April 2005)."

Paragraph 13.3

In subparagraph (a), the words "drug and crime issues" should read "drug, crime and terrorism issues".

In subparagraph (b), insert the word "relevant" before the words "treaty-based and governing bodies".

In subparagraph (c), after the words "Field-based technical cooperation projects", insert the words "upon request".

Paragraph 13.4

In the second sentence, replace the words "human security" with the words "the survival, dignity and livelihood of individuals".

Subprogramme 1
Research, analysis and advocacy

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective to read: "To increase knowledge and understanding of drug, crime and terrorism issues and to increase support for the prevention and reduction of illicit drugs, crime and terrorism."

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Revise accomplishment (a) to read: "Increased use of the evidence base by the international community to counteract drug, crime and terrorism problems".

Revise accomplishment (b) to read: "Increased assistance to Member States aimed at better quality forensic laboratories for drug analysis at the national level".

Revise accomplishment (c) to read: "Increased support for national drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice activities".

Revise accomplishment (d) to read: "Increased public awareness of issues related to drugs, crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as the relevant United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice".

Add a new expected accomplishment (e) reading: "(e) Increased gathering and analysis of data on drug, crime and terrorism problems by the Secretariat, with a view to enhancing the evidence base for use in programmes and activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by the international community".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b), insert the words "assisted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, upon request," after the word "countries" and add the words "in drug-related cases" at the end of the sentence.

Replace indicator (d) (ii) with the following: "(ii) The number of stations that broadcast information on drugs, crime and terrorism".

Add new indicator of achievement (e) reading: "(e) An increase in the availability and use of sound, evidence-based data to support work against drug, crime and terrorism problems".

Subprogramme 2
Services for policy-making and treaty adherence

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective to read: "To facilitate policy-making on issues related to drug control, crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and the ratification of and compliance with related treaties, conventions and international legal instruments, in particular the new conventions against corruption and transnational organized crime and the protocols, to the latter, as well as application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice."

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), after the words "the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", insert the words "and the Conferences of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto in force".

Revise accomplishment (b) to read: "(b) Increased accession to and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols and the international legal instruments against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations".

Revise accomplishment (c) to read: "(c) Enhanced capacity of Member States to comply with the provisions of treaties and conventions on drugs, crime and the prevention of terrorism in all its forms and

manifestations as well as to apply United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice".

Add a new expected accomplishment (d) reading: "(d) Strengthened judicial cooperation among countries, especially in matters involving extradition and mutual legal assistance".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (i), after the words "the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", insert the words "and the Conferences of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto in force".

Add a new indicator (a) (iii) reading: "(iii) The percentage of reports presented on time to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice".

Add a new indicator (a) (iv) reading: "(iv) The percentage of members of intergovernmental bodies expressing full satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of substantive secretariat services provided to them".

Replace indicator (b) (i) with the following: "(i) The number of Member States signing or ratifying and implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption, drawing on the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime".

Replace indicator (b) (ii) with the following: "(ii) The number of Member States signing or ratifying and implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, drawing on the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime".

Replace indicator (b) (iii) with the following: "(iii) The number of Member States signing or ratifying and implementing the universal legal instruments against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, drawing on the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime".

Add a new indicator (d) reading: "(d) Increased number of countries entering into and making use of bilateral and multilateral agreements for extradition and mutual legal assistance".

Strategy

Paragraph 13.7

In item (d), after the words "United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime", insert the words "and the Protocols thereto in force".

Subprogramme 3
Technical assistance and advice

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective to read: "To sustainably reduce drug abuse, illicit drug production and drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, money-laundering, corruption, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and other forms of transnational crime, and to assist Member States, which so request, with the prevention and treatment of drug abuse and with domestic criminal justice issues, including criminal justice reform."

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Revise accomplishments (a), (b) and (c) to read:

"(a) Strengthened capacity of Member States to deliver policies, strategies and actions in line with the drug control conventions and the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session devoted to countering the world drug problem in the six key areas of: drug demand reduction; the production, trafficking and abuse of amphetamines; the control of precursors; judicial cooperation; money-laundering; and the elimination of illicit crops

"(b) Strengthened capacity of Governments to reduce the main forms of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, human trafficking and money-laundering, within the framework of the mandate of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

"(c) Strengthened capacity of Governments to reduce the main forms of corruption, within the framework of the mandate of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime".

Add a new accomplishment (d) reading: "(d) Strengthened capacity of Member States, upon request, to implement the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism".

Add a new accomplishment (e) reading: "(e) Strengthened capacity of Governments, upon request, to pursue criminal justice reform in accordance with the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice".

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator (a) (iv) reading: "(iv) An increase in the number of countries reporting specific responses in precursor control, including cooperation in the international operations against the diversion of precursor chemicals for the production of illicit drugs", and renumber the subsequent indicators accordingly.

Add a new indicator (b) (iii) reading: "(iii) An increase in the number of countries fully complying with the international norms and contributing to the fight against all forms of transnational organized crime at the regional level", and renumber the subsequent indicators accordingly.

Add a new indicator (c) (iv) reading: "(iv) An increase in the number of countries implementing key elements of the United Nations Convention against Corruption".

Add a new indicator (d) reading: "(d) An increase in the number of countries implementing the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism".

Add a new indicator (e) reading: "(e) An increase in the number of countries applying United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice".

Legislative mandates
Conventions

Add the following 12 universal legal instruments on terrorism to the list of mandates:

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons (1973)

International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1979)

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997)

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)

Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (1963)

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (1970)

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1971)

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (1980)

Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1988)

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (1988)

Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (1988)

Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (1991)

Programme 14
Economic and social development in Africa

210. At its 11th meeting, on 16 June, the Committee considered programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 14)).

211. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 14 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

212. Satisfaction was expressed with the lucid, detailed and comprehensive presentation of the programme of work. The focus of programme 14 on critical interventions aimed at reversing the current conditions in Africa and putting African countries on a path of sustainable development was welcomed. Yet another view expressed scepticism on the relevance of the biennial programme plan and suggested its further review at a possible resumed session of the Committee.

213. Satisfaction was expressed with the progress that the Economic Commission for Africa had made to align the overall objective of its programme with the goals and priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. It was noted with appreciation that the review conducted by ECA after the adoption of NEPAD by the African Union had culminated in a restructuring of the programme in which the subprogrammes were consolidated and a new one created, resulting in a programme in which the elements were interdependent and complementary, and had also resulted in a reorientation of the work programme to reflect the goals of NEPAD. The view was expressed that ECA would play a key role in fulfilling the NEPAD agenda.

214. The view was also expressed that, in the overall orientation, the mainstreaming into national policies of all components of sustainable development in Africa, including environment, economic and social areas and human resources development, should be properly reflected, namely in paragraph 14.4 (c) and (f).

215. The view was expressed that while ECA had received the additional and very important mandate for overseeing coordination and collaboration concerning NEPAD among the entities of the United Nations at the regional level, it was also important that the Commission collaborate with regional organizations, regional economic communities and national organizations. The efforts to achieve coherence between global and regional priorities and to avoid duplication were welcomed. It was emphasized that more attention should be given to coordination with other United Nations entities, especially other regional commissions, while the view was expressed that the various partners of ECA should be mentioned in paragraph 14.8.

216. The view was expressed that some objectives and expected accomplishments were too broad, ambitious and formulated well beyond ECA capacities, and should be modified to be clearer, more realistic and more specific.

217. The view was expressed that the indicators of achievement were too general and abstract, without tangible targets, baseline and performance measures, did not have any links either to the 2002-2003 programme performance report or to the 2004-2005 programme budget and should be amended to be more precise and should be reconciled with the scope of expected accomplishments and strategies. A question was raised on some of the challenges faced by ECA in implementing results-based budgeting.

218. The view was also expressed that unless essential resources were provided to NEPAD, the entire programme would not be effectively implemented. It was emphasized that vigorous action to address the challenge of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases formed an essential component of the work of the Commission. Focus on HIV/AIDS and governance in Africa in several subprogrammes was welcomed. The view was expressed that the outcome of the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS held in September 2003 in New York should be mentioned in the programme.

219. The view was expressed that while the main emphasis was placed on reduction of poverty, the programme should also focus on resource mobilization and direct investment.

220. The view was expressed that, under subprogramme 2, in "Objective of the Organization", the words "nexus of food security, population, human settlements, natural resources and the environment" should be replaced with the words "sustainable development, including human resources development". The view was expressed that the strategy and indicators of achievement under this subprogramme could also refer to the organization by ECA of regional implementation meetings for follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The view was also expressed that the expected accomplishments under subprogramme 2 should be amended to include a reference to the application of science and technology, which was reflected in paragraph 14.10 (c) of the strategy.

221. The view was expressed that, under subprogramme 5, the strategy should include, besides air transport, a reference to equally important areas in the transport sector.

222. The view was expressed that, under subprogramme 6, the strategy should reflect the important role of the African Centre for Gender and Development in assisting the African Union and African regional organizations in the implementation of NEPAD, developing their respective gender policy frameworks and mainstreaming a gender perspective into their policies and programmes.

223. The role of ECA in the work of the Committee for Peace and Development, which has been mandated to ensure the participation of women in peace talks and all conflict management and peacekeeping mechanisms, was stressed, and ECA was encouraged to continue to focus on that area.

Conclusions and recommendations

224. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Throughout the programme, the words "the Millennium Development Goals" should be replaced with the words "internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992".

The Committee also recommended that the Commission, in the implementation of programme 14, take into account the special needs of

the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries in Africa.

Subprogramme 1
Facilitating economic and social policy analysis

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (b), replace the words "the Millennium Development Goals" with the words "internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b), after the words "by national statistical offices", add the words "that have been implemented for tracking progress towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992".

Subprogramme 2
Fostering sustainable development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

After the words "food security;", add the words "science and technology;".

Strategy

Paragraph 14.11

At the end of the paragraph, add the words "and organizing regional implementation meetings for follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development".

Subprogramme 4
Harnessing information for development

Objective of the Organization

Replace the words "to sustain" with the words "to further strengthen".

Subprogramme 6
Promoting the advancement of women

Paragraph 14.15

At the end of subparagraph (c), delete the word "and" before the word "governance" and add the words "conflict resolution and peace processes".

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

225. At its 11th and 12th meetings, on 16 June, the Committee considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 15)).

226. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 15 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

227. Support was expressed for the biennial programme plan under programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, and the view was expressed that great importance was attached to the programme. The revitalization of the programme structure as well as of the conference structure was welcomed.

228. Appreciation was expressed for the extensive intergovernmental consultations held in the preparation of the strategic framework. The view was expressed that it reflected the mandates of the Commission precisely and in a concise manner. It was noted with satisfaction that the document was comprehensive, in-depth, realistic and user-friendly. Significant progress in results-based management was also noted.

229. Support was also expressed for the three thematic priorities: poverty reduction; managing globalization; and addressing emerging social issues.

230. The important role of the Commission in promoting economic and social development was noted, in particular, considering that the largest number of people living below the poverty level was in the Asia and Pacific region. The Commission was commended for its role in facilitating the Asian Highway Agreement, the new "silk route", connecting Asia to Europe.

231. The participation of civil society organizations in the activities of the Commission was welcomed, and ESCAP encouraged to develop appropriate mechanisms to make their participation more productive and constructive.

232. It was noted that the Commission had undertaken efforts to avoid overlap and to coordinate its activities with other relevant bodies, in particular between the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the secretariat of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Council and the secretariat of the Pacific Community, as mentioned in paragraph 15.14. The view was expressed that expected accomplishments (a) and (b) of subprogramme 2 appeared to be similar. The view was also expressed that the Commission should continue to pursue the coordination and demarcation of roles. It was hoped that the Asian Highway Agreement would be signed by more countries and would contribute to the promotion of transportation in the region, as was expressed in resolution 60/4 adopted by the Commission at its sixtieth session, held in Shanghai in April 2004.

233. The view was expressed that there should be adequate coordination between the existing agencies and organizations dealing with information and communications, including the International Telecommunication Union and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. It was also stated that activities under this

subprogramme should be conducted taking due consideration of the discussions and opinions of experts in such fields.

234. Concern was expressed over the use of the term "human security", since that term was still the subject of debate in the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

235. **The Committee recognized the importance of pilot programmes and the exchange of information on best practices in enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission.**

236. **The Committee recommended adherence to clear rules for involvement of civil society organizations in the activities of the Commission, as is the case in other United Nations bodies.**

237. **The Committee recognized that in implementing a "rights-based approach", it was important to take into account the nature of economic, social and cultural rights, which needed to be progressively attained, within the capacities of national resources and with assistance in terms of international cooperation.**

238. **The Committee recognized the increased coordination of the Commission's activities with other United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies and encouraged continued partnerships in order to enhance their impact and avoid any possible duplication.**

239. **The Committee recognized the role of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology in the implementation of subprogramme 7, Information, communication and space technology.**

240. **The Committee recognized that the inclusion of the reference to "human security" in the programme did not imply the acceptance of such a concept by the General Assembly. In that regard, the Committee stressed that no decision had been taken on the matter and that the reference, as included in a resolution adopted by the Commission at its sixtieth session, applied only to programme 15.**

241. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development for Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 15.3

At the end of the paragraph, add the words ", as recognized by ESCAP".

Paragraph 15.9

Delete the first sentence and replace it with the following: "As a matter of priority, gender dimensions and the rights-based as well as development-based approaches for persons with disabilities will be mainstreamed across relevant subprogrammes."

Strategy

Paragraph 15.11

In the last sentence, replace "Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific" with "Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific".

Subprogramme 2
Statistics

Objective of the Organization

At the end of the sentence, insert the words ", at the request of members and associate members".

Subprogramme 5
Transport and tourism

Paragraph 15.23

Replace subparagraph (b) with the following: "(b) Assistance to improve capacity at the national level, at the request of members and associate members, for regular monitoring and analysis of transport and tourism issues, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and, in particular, in least developed, landlocked developing and small island developing States".

Replace subparagraph (e) with the following: "(e) Promotion of wider participation of all stakeholders, in accordance with rules and procedures, in public-private partnerships in the implementation of policies and decisions".

Subprogramme 6
Environment and sustainable development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), delete the words "the integration of".

Strategy

Paragraph 15.25

In subparagraph (a), after the words "Johannesburg Plan of Implementation", delete the remainder of the subparagraph.

Replace subparagraph (c) with the following text: "(c) Assisting member and associate member States in the regular monitoring of environmental trends, the implementation of global environmental agreements and any reporting requirements".

Replace subparagraph (e) with the following text: "(e) Supporting those arrangements for regional and subregional cooperation in energy and water resources and environmental protection that are entered into by member States".

Legislative mandates

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of resolutions, add the following:

60/1 Shanghai Declaration

60/3 Work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in implementing its technical cooperation projects

Subprogramme 1
Poverty and development

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of resolutions, add the following:

60/5 Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 3
Development of Pacific island countries and territories

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of resolutions, add the following:

60/6 Revitalization of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Pacific Operations Centre

60/7 Pacific Urban Agenda

Subprogramme 5
Transport and tourism

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of resolutions, add the following:

60/4 Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network

Subprogramme 8
Social development, including persistent and emerging issues

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

To the list of resolutions, add the following:

60/2 Regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health

Programme 16
Economic development in Europe

242. At its 12th meeting, on 16 June, the Committee considered programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 16)).

243. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 16 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

244. Support was expressed for the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Europe, in particular its decision to commission a comprehensive report on the state of ECE by a team of independent experts for the sixtieth annual session of the Commission, to be held in early 2005. The view was expressed that the recommendations resulting from the external review should be incorporated into the proposed biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, for 2006-2007.

245. The efforts of ECE to work more closely with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) were welcomed, again with a view to incorporating the elements of any future memorandum of understanding between ECE and OSCE into the biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, for 2006-2007.

246. It was noted that the development and integration of countries with economies in transition, in the context of the continued enlargement of the European Union, had remained a key aspect of the ECE proposed programme of work. The view was expressed that ECE recognized the special needs of countries with economies in transition that were not members of the European Union and continued to strengthen its assistance and support to that group.

247. The view was expressed that in regard to subprogramme 2, Transport, countries with economies in transition of the region, in particular landlocked developing countries, benefited from the activities being undertaken by ECE. The view was also expressed that a reference to the outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation should be included in the biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, for the period 2006-2007.

248. The question was raised as to why the biennial programme plan for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, contained no reference to HIV/AIDS and its economic impact on Europe. The view was further expressed that combating HIV/AIDS remained one of the longer-term objectives of the United Nations as well as one of the Millennium Development Goals and should be incorporated into the programme's strategic framework.

249. Questions were raised regarding the meaning of an environmental dimension of security in the region.

250. Support was expressed for the collaboration of the ECE Statistics Committee with the Conference of European Statisticians and for the capacity-building

assistance that it provided to developing countries. Support was also expressed for the promotion of fundamental principles of official statistics as a part of capacity-building and technical assistance.

251. The continued importance of the activities of ECE in the area of sustainable energy in the region was recognized. It was recommended that they continue to receive significant support, including activities related to coal, thermal power and electricity, as well as the work in the field of gas, energy efficiency and other results-oriented activities.

252. ECE was encouraged to collaborate closely with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue providing technical assistance and capacity-building in improving urban planning, particularly in the newly emerging economies. Land administration was perceived as a fundamental building block for economic development, and ECE was encouraged to branch out from cadastre management to sharing best practices in private property/commercial court management in order to streamline land and property dispute resolutions.

Conclusions and recommendations

253. **The Committee recalled the recommendation contained in paragraphs 337 and 338 of its report on its forty-third session,[2] and in that context welcomed the decision of ECE to request a report on ECE with the aim of developing recommendations to determine what changes to the role, mandate and functions of ECE were necessary in the light of the changes in the European institutional architecture that have occurred since ECE was created almost 60 years ago.**

254. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 1
Environment

Strategy

Paragraph 16.9

At the end of the paragraph, add the following new sentence: "These activities will be undertaken in cooperation with other relevant organizations working in the region."

Subprogramme 2
Transport

Strategy

Paragraph 16.11

At the end of the penultimate sentence, add the words "in particular in landlocked developing countries as a follow-up to the Almaty Programme of Action".

Subprogramme 4
Economic analysis

Strategy

Paragraph 16.17

At the end of the paragraph, add the following new sentence: "In undertaking this work, the Division will do its part to ensure that its work does not duplicate that done by other organizations and that it provides clear value-added, with a focus on those subregions of ECE that are not covered by other organizations."

Subprogramme 7
Timber

Strategy

Paragraph 16.23

After the first sentence, add the following new sentence: "The work will be carried out in conjunction with relevant activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization."

Programme 17
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

255. At its 12th meeting, on 16 June, the Committee considered programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 17)).

256. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 17, highlighting the priorities defined by Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean member States, namely, integration and trade, enhancing the region's productive structure, social equity and cohesion, international migration and sustainable development. The representative also referred to progress made in the area of coordination among regional commissions in the recent past and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

257. Strong support was expressed for programme 17, the contributions of which to the economic and social development of the Latin America and Caribbean region were commended. The work of ECLAC as a centre of excellence was also commended, and the view was expressed that the reiterated use of the term "stakeholders" to refer to beneficiaries of ECLAC services and contributions was an illustration of the firm commitment of the Commission to the countries of the region and the wide range of actors involved in the development process of the Latin America and Caribbean region. The indispensable value of ECLAC in the Latin America and Caribbean region was also stressed.

258. Views were expressed concerning the need to strengthen the role of the regional commissions both in the follow-up to the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the international conferences and summits sponsored by the United Nations in the economic and social field since 1992 and also as the entities in the best position in the United Nations system to harmonize national agendas and global issues at the regional level. The view was also expressed that ECLAC should strengthen its national offices and its role in formulating measures to solve economic and social development problems of the countries of the region. The importance of enhancing coordination among the regional commissions was stressed. ECLAC was further invited to fully use the existing forums and mechanisms to reinforce direct dialogue with representatives of Member States at United Nations Headquarters.

259. The view was expressed that more emphasis should have been placed, in the overall orientation of the programme, on the outcome and follow-up to the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, particularly with respect to the elimination of hunger and poverty, achieving gender equity and adopting sustainable development patterns. As to the logical framework of the programme, the view was expressed that a better balance among the strategies, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should be pursued. The view was also expressed that paragraph 17.4 should have contained a special reference to landlocked countries and small island developing States.

260. Regarding subprogramme 1, ECLAC was called upon to continue its contributions to foster integration at the regional and subregional levels and to pay more attention to the impact of the proliferation of bilateral integration agreements in the region in the context of open regionalism. Concern was expressed over an apparent problem of translation in the Spanish version of the objective of subprogramme 1, which should be modified to reflect the intention of harmonizing and improving the links of national economies with the global economy.

261. The view was expressed that the elimination of poverty should be added as the ultimate goal in the objective of subprogramme 4, while the particular value of the subprogramme to the countries of the region was expressed. Concern was expressed regarding the rights-based approach to development mentioned in the strategy for subprogramme 4. The views expressed on subprogramme 5 concerned seeking a better balance between gender and family issues, the use of lessons learned and the work being done under the subprogramme to achieve social and women's equity in the countries of the region.

262. With respect to subprogramme 6, the view was expressed that there should be more emphasis on international migration following the priorities explained by the United Nations Secretariat. The view was also expressed that ECLAC should improve the dissemination of information on the organization and convening of courses by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning to allow all countries of the region to benefit from them. As to subprogramme 8, the need to improve coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme was stressed.

263. Support was expressed for subprogramme 12 and for the ECLAC-led follow-up activities to review the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, while the view was expressed that specific mention

of the Programme of Action should have been made in the subprogramme. Several delegations strongly supported the request to give priority and reinforce the work that ECLAC carried out under subprogramme 12 regarding the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Caribbean region through joint action and increased cooperation with other agencies specifically concerned with the subject. The view was expressed that there was a need to improve the links and balance of strategies, objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement throughout the programme.

264. A number of delegations supported the initiative to create a new subprogramme especially devoted to carrying out subregional activities in South America, based on comparable experiences for Central America and the Caribbean. The view was expressed that the subprogramme should eventually encompass the process of integration of Mercosur and the Andean Community, as well as national initiatives for the eradication of hunger, the international humanitarian fund, common approaches to water and sanitation issues, coordinated efforts to combat international drug trafficking and shared management of the Amazon forest.

265. Several delegations called upon ECLAC to take an active role in the Haiti stabilization process to bring the regional dimension of United Nations efforts to this matter of outmost importance to the region. One delegation, on behalf of the group of friends of Haiti, expressed the view that ECLAC should provide inputs for the long-term Economic and Social Council programme for Haiti, which involved the close participation of Latin America and the Caribbean, the latter represented by the Caribbean Community.

266. The view was expressed that more emphasis should be placed on encouraging and facilitating the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among business and private-sector actors and public administration authorities instead of promoting meetings of experts and academics. The view was further expressed that ECLAC should make more of an effort to assist countries of the region in combating corruption and focus on the efficient use of public sector resources by national administrations.

Conclusions and recommendations

267. **The Committee noted with appreciation the strategic framework for ECLAC under programme 17, which takes into account the objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the need for supporting initiatives of the countries in the region in order to achieve the objectives related to a better insertion in the global economy, human and social development, regional integration and strengthening of trade systems with a view to achieving social equality and environmental sustainability. The Committee highlighted the importance of the regional and subregional perspective in implementing those goals and emphasized the need to strengthen the programmes and activities conducted by headquarters, subprogrammes and regional offices related to supporting closer links between subregional trade blocs, the eradication of poverty and hunger and a better infrastructure in sanitation. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan.**

Programme 18
Economic and social development in Western Asia

268. At its 15th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee considered programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 18)).

269. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 18 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

270. Support was expressed for the well-coordinated and improved programme designed to strengthen regional integration. Satisfaction was also expressed with the clearly formulated expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement.

271. It was noted that the programme had fully complied with the existing legislative mandates. The view was expressed that, while the programme was committed to the sustainable development of the region and included very important issues, such as economic cooperation, the digital divide and the advancement of women, it should also be provided with sufficient resources.

272. The view was expressed that the programme provided good analyses of disparities and discrepancies existing in the region and that it could provide valuable assistance in improving the situation there.

273. It was noted that closer coordination and cooperation with other regional commissions and other United Nations entities would facilitate the achievement of the programme objectives. It was stressed that efforts to achieve political stability in the region and international cooperation and partnership would contribute to sustainable development and respect for diversity in the region and that the Commission should contribute to that process.

274. Satisfaction was expressed that all publications of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the biennium 2004-2005 would be issued in the Arabic language, and the continuation of that practice was encouraged.

275. The view was expressed that objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should be more clearly defined. It was also noted that some indicators could be construed as measuring the achievements of member States rather than of the ESCWA secretariat. The view was expressed that some parts of strategies, especially those relating to the lack of security and civil society institutions, were too vague.

276. Hope was expressed that ESCWA would play a leading role in the region in preparation for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society.

277. It was stated that none of the ESCWA member countries was a member of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, making adequate participation difficult. The hope was expressed that the Economic and Social Council would take that into consideration during the next elections to the Committee.

Conclusions and recommendations

278. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 18.1

In the first sentence, after the words "to foster comprehensive", add the word "equitable,".

Paragraph 18.3

Add the following sentence before the last sentence: "Attention should be focused on Arab regional integration and the study of mechanisms that would activate this integration and on reviewing the existing organizational structure of the secretariat in order best to serve Arab integration."

Paragraph 18.4

The first sentence should read: "Overall, the programme seeks to promote successful outcomes in the countries of Western Asia in key areas of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992."

In the second sentence, after the words "aim in particular", replace the existing text with the following: ", on the request of member countries, to enhance capacity development so as to assist in building consensus and negotiating agreements in global and regional forums and to assist in formulating, implementing and monitoring policies, strategies, programmes and measures and in establishing and managing related mechanisms."

At the end of the paragraph, delete the words "partnership development" and add the following text: "assisting member countries in coping with the multidimensional requirements of globalization by fostering competitiveness on the basis of economic efficiency and the acquisition of the requisite technological skills, advising them on the integration of the human and social dimensions of development into their policies by focusing on capacity-building with regard to human resources and proposing mechanisms through which to identify the specifications and qualifications required of human resources that would enable member countries to become the driving force of social and economic development."

Paragraph 18.5

At the end of the paragraph, delete the words "and to participate in special initiatives".

Subprogramme 1
Integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Under accomplishment (c), replace the words: "in the region" with the words "among member countries" and add a new expected accomplishment as follows: "(d) Increased use by member countries of tools and techniques to enhance productivity and competitiveness in the production sectors".

Indicators of achievement

Add the following new indicator: "(d) The number of countries adopting innovative technology and management initiatives to enhance competitiveness and more sustainable and efficient use of such technology".

Strategy

Paragraph 18.7

Replace the first three sentences with the following: "The ESCWA region is suffering from a scarcity of water resources and their inefficient use. This is manifested in wasteful consumption patterns, particularly in the agricultural sector. The region also suffers from disputes over rights to shared water resources. On the other hand, the abundance of fossil fuel energy in some member countries has encouraged unsustainable production and consumption patterns that have an adverse impact on the environment. Also, the rural areas have limited access to energy services."

Paragraph 18.8

At the end of the penultimate sentence, add the following text: ", as well as improve linkages between technology and sectoral development in order to harness the efforts of individual member countries to enhance competitiveness and turn innovations into an effective vehicle for development. Efforts will be made to assist member countries in filling the gaps in vertical chains and/or in introducing knowledge-based high-tech industries by promoting development of the production and service sectors in order to achieve maximum value-added, competitiveness and sustainability in the economies of member countries and the region. Measures to facilitate capacity-building will be identified in order to enhance the productivity, competitiveness and environmental compatibility of service, industrial and agricultural outputs."

Subprogramme 2
Integrated social policies

Objective of the Organization

After the words "national social policies" delete the word "and" and add the words "that are region-specific and culturally sensitive, and to strengthen also".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace accomplishment (a) with the following: "(a) Enhanced capacity of member States, upon their request, to formulate integrated social policies and programmes that are region-specific and culturally sensitive".

Strategy

Paragraph 18.9

In the first sentence, delete the words "and lack of security of tenure". In the second sentence, after the words "and are frequently formulated and implemented", insert the words ", in some member countries,".

Subprogramme 3
Economic analysis and forecasting for regional development

Strategy

Paragraph 18.11

At the end of the last sentence, add the following text: "and obstacles and barriers to participation in the multilateral trading system remain."

Subprogramme 4
Regional integration and responding to globalization

Objective of the Organization

After the words "strengthen regional integration" insert the words "among member countries by facilitating transboundary flows of goods, information, services, persons and capital".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (c) with the following text: "(c) Greater participation in the multilateral trading system" and add the following accomplishment: "(d) Increased facilitation of transboundary flows of goods, services, persons and capital among member countries".

Indicators of achievement

Add the following indicator: "(d) The number of countries accepting and/or adopting harmonization schemes proposed by ESCWA in order to facilitate transboundary flows of goods, persons and capital".

Strategy

Paragraph 18.13

In the first sentence, after the words "regional integration", insert the words "among member States", and replace the third sentence with the following text: "Two major impediments to regional and international integration and to increased competitiveness are backwardness of the transport sector and obstacles and barriers to participation in the multilateral trading system."

Paragraph 18.14

At the end of the third sentence, add the following text: ", and on defining obstacles and barriers to participation in the multilateral trading system and on organizing awareness drives on the role of the Arab free-trade area and other bilateral agreements".

Subprogramme 5
Information and communication technology for regional integration

Strategy

Paragraph 18.16

At the end of the first sentence, add the words "among member States".

Subprogramme 6
Comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Expected accomplishment (b) should read: "(b) Strengthened skills of national statistical officials to produce gender-disaggregated social statistics and indicators in specialized areas such as population, education, unemployment and other systems of statistics and data required to measure progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and for monitoring the implementation of the outcomes of major global conferences".

Indicators of achievement

Revise indicator (a) to read "(a) (i)" and add the following text: "(ii) Increased utilization of sectoral statistics and indicators, especially with regard to regional integration among member States and indicators and statistics in new areas".

At the end of indicator (b) (i), add the following text: "in other specialized areas".

Subprogramme 7
Advancement and empowerment of women

Strategy

Paragraph 18.20

Delete the fourth sentence.

Programme 19
Human rights

279. At its 13th meeting, on 17 June, the Committee considered programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 19)).

280. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 19 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

281. Support was expressed for the biennial programme plan under programme 19, Human rights. It was noted that plan was comprehensive and that the objectives and strategies were clear.

282. The importance of the universal realization of human rights was expressed. Priority was attached to the promotion and protection of human rights.

283. Several delegations inquired whether the document had been considered for approval by an intergovernmental body. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that the strategic framework had been presented to the Commission on Human Rights but no formal decision had been taken.

284. The view was expressed that the proposed strategic framework should be brought into line with the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.[1] Other questions were raised concerning the substantial changes in the content of the overall orientation. The view was expressed that the biennial programme plan relied heavily on monitoring. It was observed that the Secretary-General's reform proposals were not legislative mandates.

285. It was noted that there was no reference made to civil society in any subprogramme. Advances in human rights global norms and instruments were noted with satisfaction.

286. Satisfaction was expressed for the structure, particularly of subprogramme 4. The view was expressed that the expected accomplishments fully met the requirements. The view was also expressed that in subprogramme 4, there existed a gap between the objective and expected accomplishments, and that more organic linkage would be necessary between those two elements.

287. Support was expressed for the establishment of a Special Procedures Branch.

288. The importance of the reform of treaty bodies and of special procedures was expressed. It was stated that reform and rationalization of the human rights treaty body system, including through the streamlining and overall improvement of human rights reporting procedures, were important and necessary to enhance and strengthen their overall effectiveness. The view was expressed that the current system put too much burden on States parties and efforts for rationalization should continue to be made through discussion among, and based on consensus of, States parties to the treaties.

289. Support was expressed for the work for the Activities and Programmes Branch, especially in the field of Advisory Services and technical cooperation. The view was expressed that expected accomplishment (a) and strategy (a) of subprogramme 3 were almost identical, and that refinement of those two elements would be necessary.

290. Respect for the sovereignty of member States was emphasized, in particular as regards the implementation of subprogramme 4.

291. The Committee stressed the need to maintain continued political will and momentum at the national, regional and international levels in order to implement

the outcomes of major conferences of the United Nations, and recalled the importance of enhancing national action and international cooperation to that end.

292. The Committee emphasized that all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should become involved in the follow-up to the major conferences and requested the specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust, within their respective mandates, their activities, programmes and medium-term and long-term strategies to take into account the follow-up to those conferences.

293. The Committee also emphasized the critical importance of placing the outcome of all major conferences on an equal footing with that of previous United Nations world conferences in the economic, human rights and social fields.

294. The Committee noted with deep concern that the reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for 2003 (E/CN.4/2003/111) and 2004 (E/CN.4/2004/L.11/Add.6, annex I) concerning, respectively, the geographical composition and the functions of the office staff clearly reflected that one region was unequivocably overrepresented in staff composition and that the imbalance had worsened. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures and also requested that particular attention be paid to recruiting personnel from unrepresented and underrepresented Member States, in particular from developing countries, for the existing vacancies and for additional posts in the Office of the High Commissioner so as to ensure an equitable geographical distribution, giving particular priority to recruitment for high-level and Professional posts and to the recruitment of women.

295. The following amendments were proposed to programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 19.1

In the second sentence, delete the words: "as well as the proposals of the Secretary-General for the strengthening of the United Nations (see A/57/387 and Corr.1) and General Assembly resolution 57/300 of 20 December 2002".

Paragraph 19.3

Revise the third sentence to read: "Emphasis will be placed on its objective to promote international cooperation for human rights".

In the fourth sentence, delete the words "responding to the needs of the vulnerable for protection" and replace the words "other pertinent United Nations organs" with the words "the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly".

Paragraph 19.4

In the second sentence, replace the words "as well as" with the word "including" and delete the words "by stimulating and coordinating action across the whole United Nations system".

In the third sentence, delete the words "in accordance with the Secretary-General's reform report of 2002"

Subprogramme 1
Right to development, research and analysis

A. Right to development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace accomplishment (a) with the following: "Strengthened support for human rights bodies and organs to incorporate right to development in their human rights activities".

or

Replace accomplishment (a) with the following: "Wider integration and/or inclusion of the promotion and protection of the right to development aimed at the full realization of the right to development, in particular across human rights programmes and the relevant programmes of work of the United Nations departments and/or offices and specialized agencies and of major international organizations and forums related to this issue".

Replace accomplishment (b) with the following: "(b) Enhanced awareness, knowledge and understanding of the right to development".

Indicators of achievement

Delete indicator (a) (i) and replace indicator (a) (ii) with the following: "(a) An increase in the activities undertaken by the human rights bodies and organs that include right to development issues".

or

Replace indicators (a) (i) and (ii) and (b) with paragraphs 19.7 (a), (b) and (c) respectively of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[1] reading:

"(a) (i) The extent to which the right to development had been included in the work programmes of the departments and offices of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, providing compiled examples of concrete steps in that regard

"(ii) The extent to which the mandates relevant to the right to development given to the Secretariat, including the holding of seminars and workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, contained in resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, including resolutions 55/2 and 56/95 on the United Nations Millennium Declaration and on the follow-up to its outcome, as well as in resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, had been fulfilled

"(b) The extent to which the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner contributed to increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding in order to advance the full realization of the right to development, in accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development".

Strategy

Paragraph 19.6

Replace the words "mindful of human rights norms and the decisions of policy-making organs" with the words "in accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development (General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex) and subsequent mandates and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, with the aim to facilitate action to be taken by relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including treaty bodies, international development and financial institutions and non-governmental organizations".

Revise subparagraph (a) to read: "(a) Placing the right to development at the centre of United Nations activities in the human rights area".

or

Revise subparagraph (a) to read: "(a) Placing the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of fundamental human rights, ensuring the realization of the right to development across the human rights programme and by specialized agencies and United Nations treaty bodies".

Delete subparagraphs (c) and (d) and reletter subparagraph (e) as (c).

Add a new subparagraph (d) reading: "(d) Promote national implementation of the right to development through coordination with State-appointed officials".

Add a new subparagraph (e) reading: "(e) Identifying obstacles at the national and international levels for the implementation of the right to development and promoting awareness about the content and importance of the right to development, including through information and educational activities".

or

In subparagraph (c), replace the words "human rights aspects" with the words "human development aspects".

or

Revise subparagraph (c) to read: "(c) Furthering the understanding and development of methodologies to enhance the incorporation of the right to development in the activities of human rights bodies and organs".

Revise subparagraph (d) to read: "(d) Contributing to the capability of the relevant United Nations bodies and organs to assist Member States, at their request, in building and enhancing national capacities in the area of right to development".

B. Research and analysis

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), after the word "women", add the words "and children" and after the words "by HIV/AIDS", add the words "migrant workers".

Add a new accomplishment (c) reading: "(c) Enhanced awareness, knowledge and understanding of all human rights, including the right to development".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b), after the words "related intolerance", add the words "including strengthening the support to the mechanisms on those matters created by resolutions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council and increasing the holding of seminars and workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly, the Council and the Commission on Human Rights, or in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner".

Add a new indicator (c) reading:

"(c) (i) An increased number of visitors to the web site of the Office of the High Commissioner"

"(ii) The number of new publications of the Office of the High Commissioner as well as their distribution and the assessment by users of their quality and usefulness".

Strategy

Paragraph 19.7

Revise subparagraph (a) to read: "(a) Supporting the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights by providing support to the established mandates; contributing to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and new forms of discrimination; promoting the rule of law and democracy; poverty reduction and strengthening, at the national and international levels, the recognition of economic, social and cultural rights; and the protection of women and children and of persons belonging to minorities, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, persons affected by HIV/AIDS, migrants and victims of trafficking;".

Revise subparagraph (c) to read: "(c) Wider support for the work of the mechanisms created to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and for the implementation of the measures proposed by the intergovernmental organs dealing with those matters, as well as the inclusion in advisory services and training provided to countries, upon request, of measures to be taken in that regard".

Subprogramme 2
Supporting human rights bodies and organs

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective to read: "To support the United Nations human rights bodies and organs and to facilitate their deliberations by ensuring and enhancing their effective functioning".

or

Merge subprogrammes 2 and 4.

or

Create a new subprogramme with the following objectives:

"(a) To enhance the capacity of developing countries to accede to and implement international human rights instruments;

"(b) To raise awareness about international human rights framework through seminars, workshops and media campaigns in developing countries;

"(c) To train administrative authorities in international human rights law and the deputation of concerned officials of developing countries in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

"(d) To augment the technical capacity of developing countries through the provision of critical infrastructure and services (computers, software, databases) and the preparation of national training modules in human rights law."

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator (c), add the words: "and the extent to which reports prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights were submitted in a timely manner, in compliance with the six-week rule for the issuance of documentation, for consideration by organs dealing with human rights".

Reletter indicator (c) to read (c) (i) and add a new indicator (c) (ii) to read: "(ii) The quality and timeliness of services provided by the Office of the High Commissioner".

Strategy

Paragraph 19.8

In subparagraph (b), after the words "existing procedures", add the words ", in consultation with States parties to human rights treaties,".

In subparagraph (d), after the words "to reduce", add the words "as appropriate and in accordance with guidelines of the relevant intergovernmental organs".

Subprogramme 3
Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities

Incorporate subprogramme 4 into subprogramme 3.

or

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective of the Organization to read: "To assist countries, at their request, in strengthening national plans to promote and protect human rights at the country level".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d) with the following:

"(a) Provision of advisory services and technical and financial assistance, at the request of the State concerned and, where appropriate, the regional human rights organizations, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights

"(b) Fulfilment of the mandates given to the Office of the High Commissioner in resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights to support human rights monitoring mechanisms, such as special rapporteurs and representatives and expert and working groups mandated by policy-making bodies

"(c) Enhanced awareness, knowledge and understanding of all human rights, including the right to development"

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicators (a), (b), (c) and (d) with the following indicators:

"(a) The number of requests from Member States and, where appropriate, from the regional human rights organizations, received and fulfilled by the Office of the High Commissioner for the provision of advisory services and technical and financial assistance with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights

"(b) The number of seminars, workshops and training courses held or supported by the Office of the High Commissioner, and the number of persons trained, participants in seminars and workshops and fellowships granted, as well as data on their geographical distribution and the extent to which they contributed to the fulfilment of the objectives of the subprogramme

"(c) The timeliness, significance and relevance of the advisory services and technical cooperation"

Strategy

Paragraph 19.9

Revise subparagraph (a) to read: "(a) In field activities, ensuring the efficiency of field missions and presences through the maintenance of contacts with Governments, appropriate sectors of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and others by supporting and developing such activities through the development of training programmes and materials for human rights field staff and training in human rights for the appropriate components of other United Nations field operations".

Revise subparagraph (b) to read: "(b) Providing advice and support to specific projects to promote respect for human rights, as well as education and training through technical cooperation programmes aimed at developing effective national human rights structures, human rights education programmes and comprehensive national plans of action. This assistance will be provided at the request of Member States through technical cooperation projects and, as appropriate, field offices".

In subparagraph (c), after the word "strengthening", add the words "where appropriate".

Subparagraph (d) is related to subprogramme 4.

Add a new subparagraph (e) reading: "Raising awareness and promoting specialized knowledge about human rights through the organization of training courses, seminars and workshops and the production of a wide range of educational, training and informational material".

Subprogramme 4
Support for human rights thematic fact-finding procedures

Merge subprogramme 4 with subprogramme 3.

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective to read: "To ensure the effective functioning of human rights monitoring mechanisms by assisting special rapporteurs and representatives, experts and working groups mandated by policy-making bodies".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat and indicators of achievement

Delete all the accomplishments and indicators.

Strategy

Paragraph 19.10

Revise subparagraph (a) to read: "(a) Providing assistance to the special rapporteurs and representatives, experts and working groups mandated by policy-making bodies, including through the preparation of information regarding alleged violations and situations for review and the provision of support for missions and meetings".

In subparagraph (b), after the words "their capacity to report", add the words ", as appropriate," and at the end of the subparagraph, add the words "at the request of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or the Commission on Human Rights".

In subparagraph (d), delete the words "in particular among their partners".

Delete subparagraph (e).

Conclusions and recommendations

296. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly allocate programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 to the Third Committee for its review and action and for subsequent submission to the Fifth Committee for its consideration in the context of the overall proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".**

Programme 20
Protection of and assistance to refugees

297. At its 16th meeting, on 18 June, the Committee considered programme 20, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 (A/59/6 (Prog. 20)).

298. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 20 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

299. Strong support was expressed for the programme and for the series of activities undertaken, especially those that attempted to reduce the movements of populations and to offer durable solutions. In that respect, support was expressed for the development of the framework for durable solutions, which was aimed at ensuring an integrated approach to repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

300. It was noted that the objectives set out in the programme were critical to the success of the mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The emphasis of the programme on the particular needs and capacities of refugee women and children and elderly refugees was also supported. UNHCR was urged to implement in its field operations the recommendations from recent evaluations on women, children and community services.

301. The importance of the work of UNHCR in favour of internally displaced persons was underlined. It was recognized that "forced human displacement" was a more generic term, covering refugees and internally displaced persons.

302. The question of local integration was discussed, as well as the concept of self-reliance, which has broader objectives than local integration since it responds also to the issue of the dignity of refugees. Respect for human dignity was highlighted as a fundamental element of the activities of UNHCR.

303. The overall change in orientation of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 compared with the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was noted, as well as the emphasis on protection. The view was expressed that the programme should be oriented more towards the issue of repatriation.

304. Concern was expressed that the Office did not have adequate field protection staff. The importance of contingency planning was stressed, as well as the critical role of coordination between actors in the field. The question of UNHCR action in cases where refugees were violent was raised. It was explained that the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees allowed for the expulsion of a refugee on grounds of national security or public order (art. 32). It was stated that everything was done to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of refugees' camps and settlements.

305. The roll-out in the summer of 2004 of the new standardized registration system, "Project profile", was welcomed, as well as the first steps in implementing a new financial and supply management tracking system.

306. Concern was expressed that there was no uniform agreement on the interpretation of the Convention Plus initiative. It was stated that the legal regime of refugees was an international regime and that the risk of developing multilateral agreements was fragmenting a universal principle. It was explained that Convention Plus was a pragmatic mechanism which covered a range of interventions (prevention, assistance, etc.) to reach durable solutions for refugees. It was highlighted that all States must apply international norms on the treatment of refugees, especially for the return of refugees.

307. The view was expressed that the logical framework could be expanded through the integration of indicators of achievement at the regional level, as well as through the insertion of a reference to the level of legislation of the UNHCR framework for durable solutions. It was also suggested that elements of the logical framework of the proposed programme budget for the period 2004-2005 should be reinserted.

Conclusions and recommendations

308. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 20, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 20.2

In the third sentence, after the words "humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons (see resolution 48/116)", insert the words ", working in cooperation with the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator (see resolution 58/153)".

Paragraph 20.5

In subparagraph (a), insert the words ", as and when appropriate" after the words "in cooperation with States and organizations".

In subparagraph (e), after the words "into all aspects", insert the words "of its protection programmes and".

Subprogramme 1
International protection

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace the text of accomplishment (c) with the following: "Enhanced protection of refugee women and children".

Indicators of achievement

Insert a new indicator (c) (iii) reading: "(c) (iii) Increase in the number of UNHCR staff trained on gender and children's policy responses".

At the end of indicator (e) (i) insert the following: ", in the framework of programmes of voluntary repatriation to the countries of origin".

In indicator (e) (ii), replace the words "resettled to third countries" with the words "for whom durable solutions are found".

Replace indicator (e) (iii) with the following: "(iii) An increase in the number of actors involved in activities aimed at promoting the self-reliance of returnees and providing support to host countries and countries of origin in order to promote durable solutions".

Strategy

Paragraph 20.7

In the last sentence, before the words "in the form of 'Convention Plus Agreements'" insert the words "as and when appropriate,".

Subprogramme 2
Assistance

Objective of the Organization

After the words "from the outset of an emergency", insert the words "until such time as the beneficiaries have been successfully reintegrated in their communities of origin or have access to other durable solutions, as appropriate, while at the same time".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add a new accomplishment (d) reading: "(d) Further improvement of UNHCR levels of emergency preparedness and contingency planning".

Add a new accomplishment (e) reading: "(e) Progress in strengthening local capacity to cope with refugee situations".

Add a new accomplishment (f) reading: "(f) To promote operational cooperation to better assist people of concern to UNHCR, through the provision of sufficient voluntary contributions by the international community, in a spirit of burden-sharing and international solidarity".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (i), replace the words "in refugee camps" with the words "established by UNHCR, as well as other quantifiable improvements assisted by UNHCR in meeting the basic needs of refugees".

Indicator (b) should read: "(b) An increase in the number of coordinated initiatives of relevant United Nations agencies aimed at addressing the needs of refugees or returnees and the surrounding communities".

Add a new indicator (d) reading: "(d) The number of emergency preparedness arrangements and contingency plans elaborated in response to potential refugee emergencies".

Add a new indicator (e) reading: "(e) The number of countries assisted by UNHCR to strengthen their capacity to cope with refugee situations".

Add a new indicator (f) reading:

"(f) (i) The number of government agencies involved in the support of countries hosting/reintegrating refugees in accordance with the High Commissioner's strategy of repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction

"(ii) The achievement of a sufficient increase in the level of voluntary contributions provided by the international community

"(iii) The number of refugees assisted and repatriated or for whom other durable solutions are found, as appropriate".

Strategy

Paragraph 20.9

In the first sentence, replace the words "self-reliance of refugees and returnees" with "self-reliance of returnees and, where feasible, that of refugees".

In the third sentence, replace the words "will guide the Office's assistance activities to ensure that they" with "will aim to ensure that the Office's assistance activities".

In item (i), after the words "the promotion of development", insert the words "and humanitarian".

In item (iii), replace the existing text with the following: "(iii) the promotion of a relevant strategy of development in those areas where local integration of refugees is acceptable to the host countries".

In the last sentence, delete the words "and, at the country level, by working to have refugee-related issues included in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks" and add the following two sentences at the end of the paragraph: "To anchor the return of those forcibly displaced to their communities of origin, the Office will continue

to ensure linkages between broader development efforts and humanitarian assistance. In that regard, UNHCR, when formulating programmes, will work closely with development entities and international financial institutions to ensure a comprehensive approach to programme planning."

309. **The Committee stressed that the assistance referred to in paragraph 20.9 must in every possible case be additional and not entail the diversion of any other type of assistance provided to the host country bilaterally or multilaterally.**

Programme 21
Palestine refugees

310. At its 13th meeting, on 17 June, the Committee considered programme 21, Palestine refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 21)).

311. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 21 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

312. The importance of the peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue and the settlement of the Middle East question were expressed.

313. Support was expressed for the biennial programme plan under programme 21, Palestine refugees. The high quality of work of the programme was commended. The critical role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in providing assistance to 4.1 million registered Palestinian refugees and in fostering stability in a troubled region was noted. The role of UNRWA in human empowerment was also commended, in particular considering the severe financial constraints and difficult conditions in the West Bank and Gaza. The valuable support of host countries was recognized. The view was expressed that the existence of UNRWA was temporary in nature, pending the final resolution of the Palestinian issue. Questions were raised concerning the definition of "eligible refugees", as referred to in paragraph 21.4 of the programme and expected accomplishment (a) of subprogramme 3.

314. Questions were raised concerning the adequacy of funding and possible setbacks in implementing the programme due to a decline in contributions. UNRWA was encouraged to broaden its donor base, especially among Arab countries. All countries with the capacity to do so were encouraged to make a cash or in-kind contribution to UNRWA to allow the chronically underfunded agency to fully fund both its regular and emergency programmes.

315. The view was expressed that the work of UNRWA lent itself to results-based budgeting and that indicators of achievement were more specific and very acceptable. Note was taken of the last sentence of paragraph 21.3 of the programme, which read: "Should the peace talks resume and lead to a settlement, the Agency may be asked to assume new tasks." The question was raised of how the Agency's five-year strategic plan (2004-2008), as referred to in paragraph 21.5 of the programme, had been linked to the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 currently under consideration.

316. Support was expressed for the education programme, in particular efforts to teach a culture of peace and dialogue. Its health programme was also commended, as were its relief and social services, particularly for children and the disabled. Its microenterprise programme, particularly for women, was encouraged.

317. Concern was expressed that the programme did not reflect all legislative mandates given to UNRWA. It was emphasized that General Assembly resolution 3331B (XXIX) should have been reflected in the programme, as it was contained in the medium-term plan for 2002-2005.[1]

Conclusions and recommendations

318. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 21, Palestine refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 21.3

Delete the last sentence.

Paragraph 21.5

The penultimate sentence should read: "In each subprogramme area, including general education, technical and vocational educational training, maternal and child health care, disease prevention, poverty alleviation and microfinance, the Agency has sought to achieve programme results consistent with the targets and commitments established by the United Nations system, such as the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992."

At the end of the last sentence, add the following words: "in its five areas of operation, including education services, health services, relief and social services and income-generating programmes, and will continue to undertake projects to improve infrastructure and socio-economic conditions".

Subprogramme 1
Education

Objective of the Organization

Replace the words "Palestine refugee children and youth" with the words "Palestine refugees, in particular children and youth".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Revise accomplishment (a) to read: "(a) Improve the quality of education provided to the Palestine refugee population at all levels and increase the coverage".

Strategy

Paragraph 21.6

Add a new subparagraph (f) reading: "(f) Providing educational services to Palestine refugees in accordance with the needs of the refugees and their identity and cultural heritage and consistent with the standards of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization".

Subprogramme 2
Health

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of accomplishment (c), add the words "and improvement of safe indoor water facilities".

Add a new accomplishment (e) reading: "(e) Reduction of nutritional disorders".

Indicators of achievement

Reletter indicator (a) to read "(a) (i)" and add the following new indicator reading: "(ii) Percentage of pregnant women registered with health care".

Reletter indicator (c) to read "(c) (i)" and add the following new indicator reading: "(ii) Number of camps provided with safe indoor water facilities".

Add the following new indicator:

"(e) (i) Decrease in the prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women and pre-school children"

"(ii) Decrease in the prevalence of acute malnutrition among pre-school children".

Strategy

Paragraph 21.7

Add the following new subparagraph: "(e) Improving the efficiency of the distribution of food aid".

Legislative mandates

Add the following mandate:
General Assembly resolution 3331B (XXIX) of 17 December 1974

Programme 22
Humanitarian assistance

319. At its 20th and 21st meetings, on 22 and 23 June, the Committee considered programme 22, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 22 and Corr.1)).

320. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

321. Strong support and appreciation were expressed for the key role played by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the execution of difficult and complex tasks. Support was also expressed for the overall purpose of the programme. The view was expressed that the Office should be commended for its efforts to ensure timely, coherent and coordinated responses by the international community to disasters and emergencies, to promote natural disaster reduction and to facilitate a smooth transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation and development.

322. The view was expressed that the humanitarian environment had changed significantly. There was recognition that a number of disasters and conflicts had become acute, extensive and complex.

323. The notion of capacity-building of Member States to help address issues of humanitarian assistance was welcomed. The proposed support for the establishment of effective planning capacity for the management of the transition from relief to reconstruction and development was also welcomed. The view was expressed that transition was absolutely key if the good work achieved by the international community was to be sustained in the longer term.

324. Concern was expressed with regard to the explosion in the number of humanitarian actors in recent years, which made coordination more important and more difficult. It was observed that obstacles to coordination were still encountered, particularly in the field, and the intensified coordination efforts within the United Nations system were welcomed. Stronger emphasis was placed on closer coordination between regional institutions as well as support for capacity-building.

325. The view was expressed that, notwithstanding the fact that the issue of the safety and security of humanitarian personnel was reflected in the legislative mandates contained in General Assembly resolution 58/122, no particular reference had been made to how the programme would address that issue.

326. The importance of the proactive dissemination of lessons learned and best practices in order to increase capacity in disaster-prone countries was highlighted.

327. The view was expressed that some of the objectives and strategies, although general in nature, were broadly acceptable.

Conclusions and recommendations

328. **The Committee recognized that the effective implementation of the mandate of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs involved ongoing functions at Headquarters. They included humanitarian coordination, policy development in humanitarian activities, humanitarian advocacy, information analysis and dissemination, field support and management of relevant inter-agency and interdepartmental mechanisms. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to make recommendations to it at its sixtieth session on how to ensure the ongoing discharge of key functions at Headquarters.**

329. **The Committee recommended that the issue of internally displaced persons be more comprehensively reflected in the programme proposals, given that the Emergency Relief Coordinator had overall responsibility within the United Nations system.**

330. **The Committee emphasized the importance of the proactive dissemination of lessons learned and best practices in order to increase the capacity of disaster-prone countries for disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery.**

331. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 22, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 22.2

At the end of the paragraph add the following text: "The principal responsibility for the implementation of disaster reduction activities resides with the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Development Programme, while responsibility for the transition from relief to rehabilitation and development also involves organizations participating in the United Nations Development Group."

Subprogramme 1
Policy and analysis

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Reletter expected accomplishment (b) as (c) and insert the following as new accomplishment (b): "(b) Improved capacity and policy responses by United Nations humanitarian coordinators for the protection of civilians".

Indicators of achievement

Reletter indicator (b) (i) as (c) (i) and insert the words "and methodologies on humanitarian action" after the words "policy guidelines".

Reletter indicator (b) (ii) as (c) (ii) and reformulate as follows: "The number of agreed inter-agency strategies in the field".

Add the following new indicator of achievement:

"(b) (i) The development of guidelines on the protection of civilians

"(ii) An increase in the number of United Nations humanitarian coordinators trained in protection of civilian issues".

Strategy

Paragraph 22.4

Replace the words "based on human rights, international law and humanitarian principles" with the words "based on international

humanitarian law, humanitarian principles, including those recognized in General Assembly resolution 46/182, and human rights".

Subprogramme 2
Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), after the words "support to", insert the words "all United Nations".

Add a new accomplishment reading "(e) Timely mobilization and coordination of international assistance to countries affected by natural disasters".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a), after the words "coordination mechanisms", add the words "in the field as well as at Headquarters".

In indicator (b), add at the end the words "and improved flexibility of funding, such as by decreased earmarking".

Add a new indicator reading: "(e) International assistance is provided to the affected country within 48 hours following the issuance of the situation report and appeal for funds".

Programme 23
Public information

332. At its 18th meeting, on 21 June, the Committee considered programme 23, Public information, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 23)).

333. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 23 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

334. The Committee welcomed the presentation of the programme narrative of programme 23. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of the Department of Public Information. The Committee recognized the important role played by the United Nations information centres and encouraged the Department to continue their important work to fill the gap in the telecommunication area in their respective regions. Concerns were expressed about the growing use of digital texts, as that could render printed texts obsolete. The Committee also encouraged the Department to continue the use of its radio broadcasts since that was still the means to reach a great majority of the people, particularly in the developing world.

335. The view was expressed that the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should be further enhanced, particularly with reference to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.[1] The question was also raised of the equal treatment of the six official languages with a view to achieving multilingualism of the web site and United Nations documents.

336. Clarification was sought on the meaning of the terms "United Library Consortium" and "major broadcasters". The Committee acknowledged the efforts and progress the Department had made in the field of modern media. However, the Committee expressed its concerns regarding the digital divide between the developed and developing worlds, particularly in Africa and many Latin American countries, where the use of the Internet was not as widespread and the need to bridge that gap was of utmost importance.

337. The following amendments were proposed to programme 23, Public information, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 23.1

At the end of the first sentence, after the words "the greatest public impact", add the words ", in particular by ensuring the full and equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations in all activities of the Department of Public Information and that the texts of all new public documents in all six official languages and informational materials of the United Nations are made available through the United Nations web site daily and are accessible to Member States without delay".

In the final sentence, replace the words "the Assembly and its subsidiary body" with the words "the Assembly, in particular the legislative mandates included in the present biennial programme plan, as well as those of its subsidiary body,".

Paragraph 23.2

The third sentence should read: "As the Department responsible for the communication policies of the United Nations, the Department of Public Information works closely with substantive client departments within the Secretariat and with other United Nations system partners, including through the United Nations Communications Group, to deliver effective and targeted information programmes on the aforementioned key areas within a common communications framework."

After the third sentence, add the following new sentence: "It endeavours to match its programmes with the needs of its audiences on the basis of improved feedback and evaluation mechanisms, including its annual programme impact review."

At the end of paragraph, add the following new sentence: "The Dag Hammarskjöld Library, in close coordination with other United Nations libraries, including through its leadership of the Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries, and also through its own products and services, facilitates access to United Nations information."

New paragraph

After paragraph 23.2, add the following new paragraph and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"23.3 As mentioned in the penultimate preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 58/101 B, particular attention will be paid to the full and equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations in the activities of the Department of Public Information to ensure that the texts of all new official documents in all six official languages are made available through the United Nations web site daily and are accessible to Member States without delay. Furthermore, the Department will continue to aim to eliminate the disparity between the use of English and the other five official languages in United Nations information materials."

Subprogramme 1
Strategic communication services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace accomplishment (c) with the following: "(c) Successful collaboration with client departments to develop communication strategies on priority issues" and add the following new accomplishments:

"(d) A strengthened culture of communication and coordination among United Nations system partners

"(e) Increased awareness of key thematic issues among audiences through the implementation of communication strategies on those issues

"(f) Continued regionalization of United Nations information centres".

Indicators of achievements

Delete indicators (c) (i) and (ii) and add the following new indicators:

"(c) An increase in the percentage of client departments that indicate satisfactory collaboration

"(d) An increase in the number of joint and/or coordinated activities with member organizations of the United Nations Communications Group

"(e) An increase in the percentage of audiences indicating increased awareness

"(f) An increase in the number of regions undergoing the regionalization process".

Strategy

Paragraph 23.6

Replace the words "information centres and services" with the words "information centres, information components and regional information centres and services".

Paragraph 23.7

At the end of the first sentence, add the words ", information components and regional information centres and services".

Paragraph 23.8

In the first sentence, replace the words "in local languages, by United Nations information centres and services", with the words "in local languages, where possible, by United Nations information centres and regional information centres and services".

At the end of the paragraph, add the words "and regional information centres".

Paragraph 23.9

Replace the words "the information component of United Nations peace missions" with the words "the information component of peacekeeping operations and of political and peace missions of the United Nations".

Subprogramme 2
News services

Objective of the Organization

After the words "media outlets", add the words ", the general public".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add the following new expected accomplishment: "(c) Satisfaction with the availability of timely, accurate, objective and balanced information and/or services to the media, delegations, other audiences and redisseminators".

Indicators of achievement

Under indicator (a), add the following new indicator and reletter existing indicator (a) (ii) as (a) (iii): "(ii) An increase in the number of radio programmes disseminated directly to broadcast stations, by language and by region".

Add the following new indicator: "(c) An increase in the percentage of users expressing satisfaction with the availability of timely, accurate, objective and balanced information and/or services".

Strategy

Paragraph 23.10

Replace the words "information centres and information services" with the words "information centres, information components and regional information centres and information services".

Subprogramme 3
Library services

Objective of the Organization

After the words "the Secretariat," add the words "the general public".

Indicators of achievement

At the beginning of indicator (a) (ii), add the words "An increase in".

At the beginning of indicator (b), add the words "An increase in" and replace the words "coordinated projects" with the words "completed coordinated projects".

Strategy

Paragraph 23.14

At the end of the paragraph, add the words "through its leadership of the Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries".

Paragraph 23.15

In the first sentence, replace the words "the print collections of the United Nations documents" with the words "the need for printed copies of United Nations documents and the".

Paragraph 23.18

In the first sentence, replace the words "engaging in collaborative projects" with the words "coordinating collaborative projects".

Subprogramme 4
Outreach services

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator (b) (iii), add the words ", sorted by official language".

Strategy

Paragraph 23.21

In the last sentence, replace the words "target audiences" with the words "the general public and redisseminators".

Conclusions and recommendations

338. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly allocate programme 23, Public information, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 to the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee) for its review and action and for subsequent submission to the Fifth Committee for its consideration in the context of the overall strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 under the item entitled "Programme planning".**

Programme 24
Management and support services

339. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 15 June, the Committee considered programme 24, Management and support services, of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 (A/59/6 (Prog. 24)).

340. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 24 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

341. General support was expressed for the proposed programme. The view was expressed that the proposed programme plan was more strategic and action-oriented and had more concise objectives than the current programme. The client-oriented proactive approach to implementing the Secretary-General's management reform measures used in formulating the programme plan, with emphasis on a continuing dialogue on the management issues and on enforcing responsibility and accountability of programme managers, was noted and supported. At the same time, the need for the presentation in the programme of a broad outline of management challenges facing the Organization and a better assessment as to whether the strategic framework sufficiently responded to those challenges was pointed out. Efforts of the Department of Management to further enhance and expand common and joint services between the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system were also noted and supported. The view was also expressed that the proposed programme plan for regional headquarters was too generic and not sufficiently reflective of issues specific to those offices.

342. Efforts towards the refinement of results-based budgeting as a management tool, with a more succinct and clearly defined time frame, were welcomed, and it was emphasized that those efforts should be systematically continued. The consistency in the presentation of the logical framework for the entire programme was noted. The view was expressed, however, that some expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement required further refinement and that the absence of baseline and target performance indicators in the programme made it difficult for the Committee to assess relevance of the proposed expected accomplishments. The lack of a clear relationship between some of the proposed expected accomplishments and their corresponding indicators of achievement was pointed out.

343. With regard to subprogramme 1, Management services and administration of justice, while measures taken for further delegation of authority on administrative issues to local programme managers was welcomed, it was pointed out that this process should continue and be further broadened to include peacekeeping operations. It was also pointed out that the objectives of the management services component of the subprogramme should be more specific, focusing on improvements in business processes and efficiency and productivity, and that the subprogramme strategy should be geared towards the analysis of needs of clients of departments and offices with a view to enhancing services. With regard to the administration of justice component of the subprogramme, the view was expressed that the formulation of the component might require further revision in the light of the expected outcome of the review of the progress in implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/307 by the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

344. With regard to subprogramme 2, Programme planning, budget and accounts, the view was expressed that the objectives of the subprogramme were not specific enough and that some expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement could be better formulated. It was also pointed out that agreement on or adoption by the General Assembly of the scale of assessments was the responsibility of the Assembly, and that the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement

proposed for component (e) of the subprogramme should be reformulated with an emphasis on improved timeliness and quality of documentation as important factors in supporting the decision-making process of Member States on the scale of assessments.

345. With regard to subprogramme 3, Human resources management, the need for further refinement of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement in order to better reflect the subprogramme's objectives and strategy and to show more clearly a linkage between such accomplishments and indicators was emphasized. The view was expressed that improvement in the functionality of the performance appraisal system and Galaxy should be included in the list of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement under the subprogramme. The view was also expressed that the managerial measures for staff motivation should be reflected in the programme plan, given that the staff is the main asset of the Organization. It was also pointed out that the subprogramme might require further revision to reflect any new mandates that the General Assembly may adopt at its fifty-ninth session upon its consideration of human resources management issues.

346. With regard to subprogramme 4, Support services, support was expressed for the efforts made by the Secretary-General to strengthen the security and safety of the Organization. At the same time, a need for better coordination of those efforts between the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system was stressed. The view was expressed that the outcome of the review by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session of the Secretary-General's proposals in the context of the second phase of strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises should be incorporated into the programme plan. With regard to information and communication technology, concern was expressed that no coordination of such activities between the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system was programmed into the plan and that the agencies continued to develop similar and overlapping information technology systems. While it was recognized that the compliance of all information technology projects with the standards promulgated by the Information and Communication Technology Board of the Secretariat was crucial, it was indicated that the link between expected accomplishment (a) and indicator of achievement (a) was insufficiently clear.

Conclusions and recommendations

347. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixtieth session, and biennially thereafter, on the contribution made by the Department of Management to the improvement of management practices, including measures to increase efficiency and productivity, in the Secretariat.**

348. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to develop a time-bound plan for the reduction of duplication, complexity and bureaucracy in United Nations administrative processes and procedures, including the adoption of a Secretariat-wide approach to streamline and automate them, and to report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session on the plan and on the progress made in implementing it.**

349. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to develop improved tools for identifying the cost of**

activities and outputs and to report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session on options for applying cost-accounting techniques drawing on best international practices.

350. **The Committee recommended that consideration be given to the further review and enhancement of the performance appraisal system.**

351. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 24, Management and support services, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 24.3

In the first sentence, after the words "reform measures," add the words "including those approved by the General Assembly,".

A. Headquarters

Subprogramme 1
Management services and administration of justice

(a) Management services

Objective of the Organization

After the word "Secretariat", insert the words "as a means of enhancing effectiveness, efficiency and productivity".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add a new accomplishment (c) reading: "(c) Improved methods, tools and techniques to assess efficiency and productivity in key management and service functions".

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator of achievement (c) reading: "(c) Number of benchmarks and other improved methods and tools utilized by the Secretariat to assess efficiency and productivity and the submission of reports to the General Assembly on them".

(b) Administration of justice

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace the word "consistent" with the words "fair and effective"; and letter the entry as (a).

Add a new accomplishment (b) reading: "(b) Measures to ensure the timely participation of managers in the administration of justice process".

Indicators of achievement

Letter the indicator as (a) (i) and add a new indicator (a) (ii) reading: "(ii) An increased percentage of responses indicating satisfaction with the fairness and effectiveness of the system of internal justice".

Add a new indicator (b) reading: "(b) Material reduction in delays or extension of cases resulting from the failure of managers to respond".

Subprogramme 2
Programme planning, budget and accounts

(a) Programme planning and budgeting

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Insert a new expected accomplishment (b) reading: "(b) Assisting Member States in taking fully informed decisions on issues relating to the regular budget", and reletter the existing entry (b) as (c).

Indicators of achievement

Add the following new indicator of achievement (b) (i) and (ii) and reletter existing indicator (b) as (c):

"(b) (i) An increase in the number of Member States expressing satisfaction with the quality of budgetary documents

"(ii) 100 per cent compliance with deadlines for the issuance of reports".

(b) Financial services relating to peacekeeping operations

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (b), replace the words "Strengthened ability of" with the word "Assisting".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b) (i), replace the words "percentage of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly" with the words "number of Member States".

(e) Assessment and processing of contributions

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Delete accomplishment (a) and reletter the remaining entries as (a) and (b).

Indicators of achievement

Delete indicator of achievement (a) and reletter the remaining entries as (a) (i) and (ii) and (b).

Subprogramme 3
Human resources management

(b) Organizational development

Indicators of achievement

Delete indicator of achievement (a) (i).

Subprogramme 4
Support services

(b) Information and communication technology services

Strategy

Paragraph 24.21

At the end of the paragraph add the sentence "The possibility of gradually adopting open-standard platforms in place of proprietary software for the information and communication technology services of the Organization will be assessed, with a view to evaluating both the benefits, in terms of improved security and reliability and a reduction in license fees, and the costs of such an approach."

Programme 25
Internal oversight

352. At its 19th meeting, on 22 June, the Committee considered programme 25, Internal oversight, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 25)).

353. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 25 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

354. Support was expressed for the conciseness and high quality of the programme plan. In addition, appreciation was expressed for the emphasis on making the United Nations more results-based.

355. The issue of qualitative measures was raised vis-à-vis whether they were best suited for oversight activities. The Office of Internal Oversight Services indicated that it had consulted with various national oversight bodies and had found its practices to be compatible.

356. Concern was expressed regarding changes in the overall orientation and objectives of the programme. In that regard, it was recalled that those elements should fully reflect the mandate of the Office, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994.

357. The view was expressed that the objectives of the three subprogrammes were beyond the scope of mandates and did not sufficiently emphasize accountability.

358. Concern was raised regarding the lack of reference to Member States in the expected accomplishments. However, it was observed that the strategic framework included references to Member States in the overall orientation, as well as to legislative bodies in expected accomplishment (a) of subprogramme 1.

359. The current organizational model was questioned with regard to management consulting. The Office of Internal Oversight Services indicated that a small nucleus of staff supplemented by experts was an effective model.

360. Timeliness in the delivery of documentation and the need for quality information was raised, as was the importance of mitigating risk.

Conclusions and recommendations

361. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly review programme 25, Internal oversight, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 25)) at its fifty-ninth session.**

Programme 26
Jointly financed activities

362. At its 14th meeting, on 17 June, the Committee considered programme 26, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 (A/59/6 (Prog. 26)).

363. The representatives of the Secretary-General introduced programme 26 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

364. General support was expressed for the proposed programme 26 (components A-D). The value and importance of the activities proposed in programme 26 were recognized, with particular emphasis on the coordinating role of the United Nations in strengthening cooperation among United Nations system organizations in achieving the objectives defined by Member States.

365. The view was expressed that the results-based budgeting approach in formulating the objectives and strategy of the programme had allowed for more concise and clearly defined expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement. At the same time, it was pointed out that some expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement required further refinement. The view was expressed that the absence of baseline and target performance indicators made it difficult for the Committee to assess the relevance and measurability of the proposed expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement. It was also pointed out that some indicators of achievement had been formulated to measure the quantity of work and did not allow measuring the quality of the results achieved.

366. With regard to component A, International Civil Service Commission, of programme 26, while the role of the Commission within the framework of the policy-making process on the issue of the international civil service was recognized, the view was expressed that the objectives and logical framework of this component should also reflect the coordinating role of the General Assembly. The view was also expressed that the overall orientation and strategy of this component should more fully reflect the emerging issues and problems of the United Nations common system under the Commission's purview and the interaction between the Commission and participating organizations.

367. With regard to component B, Joint Inspection Unit, of programme 26, the programme proposed for the Joint Inspection Unit was supported and the efforts by the Unit to reform its working methods and proceedings commended. At the same time, the view was expressed that the work of the Unit should be more results-oriented and the expected accomplishments fully measurable. The view was also expressed that the formulation of the programme proposed under component B might require further review and revision at a later stage to reflect the outcome of

the reform of the Unit to be undertaken by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

368. With regard to component C, United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, of programme 26, while the efforts of the Board in coordinating the United Nations system was recognized, the view was expressed that the programme proposed under component C should be oriented towards a more integrated approach in addressing the challenges facing the United Nations system, including proposals for measuring conflict prevention and post-conflict resolution, as well as for strengthening the cooperation of participating organizations in improving security and safety for staff, in particular in the field. It was also pointed out that the expected accomplishments should be geared towards addressing the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the Board activities. The view was also expressed that the proposed expected accomplishments and the strategy were too general and ambitious and should be refocused towards improvements in knowledge-sharing and the cost-effectiveness of investments in technology.

369. With regard to component D, Inter-organizational security measures, of programme 26, general support was expressed for the continuous efforts by the United Nations Security Coordinator towards strengthening of the United Nations security management system in the field. The views were expressed that the orientation and objectives of the programme under component D should more clearly reflect the new security challenges and threats and changes in the security environment and that all organizations participating in the security management system should actively contribute to strengthening security mechanisms in the field. The view was also expressed that the proposed expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should be reformulated with a view to enhancing the capacity of the Security Coordinator to conduct risk analysis and initiate rapid responses. The view was also expressed that the programme proposed under component D might require further review and revision in the light of the outcome of the consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session of the Secretary-General's proposals in the context of the second phase of strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises.

Conclusions and recommendations

370. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 26, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed biennial programme plan, on the understanding that components A, B and D of the programme might be revised in the light of any decision that the General Assembly might take on them at its fifty-ninth session.**

371. **The Committee recalled that the General Assembly, in paragraph 9 of its resolution 58/286, had decided to revert to the issue of the reform of the Joint Inspection Unit at its fifty-ninth session in order to take any action for the enhancement of the effectiveness of the Unit that might be required for the attainment of its objectives.**

372. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 26, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

C. United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Overall orientation

Paragraph 26.7

In the second sentence, replace the words "internationally agreed development goals, as well as ensuring integrated and coordinated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits, including" with the words "internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992, and".

In the third sentence, before the words "human resources management", insert the word "and" and delete the words "and the reform of the common system".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a), after the word "programmes", add the words "and projects with strategic impact".

D. Evaluation

1. Strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives

373. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 8 and 9 June, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/59/79).

374. The representative of the Office of Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

375. Several delegations welcomed the report, noting that it contained a comprehensive, thorough and useful review. Some delegations were reassured by the assessment that the Organization's evaluation capacity was sustained by reasonably sound institutional arrangements. They further noted that effective evaluation was needed to better link programme results and resources. It was noted that, while the report had common-sense ideas, it was perhaps overly optimistic regarding the capacity that existed to support self-evaluation, given the low level of resources and the lack of a dedicated infrastructure.

376. Concern was expressed at the lack of compliance with the Rules and Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8). Delegations also concurred with the Office of Internal Oversight Services that the seniority of the evaluation manager was critical and highlighted the importance of

action 2, that senior managers should be encouraged to lead the way, and recommended that it be implemented immediately.

377. Delegations expressed doubt as to the real value and practical implications for the Organization's human resources policies of introducing monitoring and evaluation skill requirements in the recruitment and appointment of programme managers at the P-5 level and above. Concern was raised that such requirements could become a further impediment to the recruitment of fresh talent for the Organization. It was stressed that this issue should be considered at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Human resources management".

378. Plans to produce a comprehensive glossary and handbook were also welcomed as a step that would ensure uniformity throughout the Organization. It was also noted that, for the Secretariat to improve its evaluation potential, there was a need to allocate sufficient resources, user-friendly tools and clear and consistent terminology and for senior managers to have sufficient competence in monitoring and evaluation.

379. The pilot efforts made to enhance self-evaluation were welcomed, and updates of progress were requested for consideration at the next session of the Committee. It was also suggested that those efforts be repeated in other departments, which would help to confirm their relevance. It was emphasized that accomplishment reports should be consistent with the results of the evaluations, including self-evaluations, of the same programmes. Clarification was also requested and provided as to the reasons why three programmes had not responded to the survey.

380. It was noted that regarding suggestion 2 (c), the organizational format for deliberations by intergovernmental bodies overseeing substantive programmes and subprogrammes on results of evaluations was not important as long as the evaluation reports were comprehensively reviewed and results of such reviews were provided to the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

381. Regarding the topics for in-depth evaluation, it was noted that management reviews in the context of other forums (such as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) did not indicate that those topics should be excluded from in-depth evaluation.

Conclusions and recommendations

382. **The Committee decided to select the theme of "political affairs" for its in-depth evaluation in 2006.**

383. **The Committee commended the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the candid and straightforward way in which issues affecting programme performance were covered in its reports on in-depth evaluations and triennial reviews (E/AC.51/2004/3, E/AC.51/2004/4 and E/AC.51/2004/5 and Corr.1). The Committee requested the Office to include, in future in-depth and thematic evaluations as well as in triennial reviews, a brief section on questions in which intergovernmental guidance and follow-up, by the Committee or other appropriate intergovernmental bodies, would be useful. The section should focus on practical and policy issues which, in the view of the Office, cannot be solved by Secretariat action alone and that require cooperation between the Secretariat and intergovernmental bodies.**

384. **The Committee took note of the following actions being taken by the Secretariat, as set out in the report: actions 1 (b), 2 (a), 3 (a) and (b) and 4.**

385. **The Committee took note of action 5 and recalled that the General Assembly had not adopted a resource growth policy.**

386. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly consider actions 2 (b) and (c) in the context of the item on human resources management at its fifty-ninth session.**

387. **The Committee endorsed suggestions 2 (a) and (b) on support needed from intergovernmental bodies.**

388. **The Committee recommended that the relevant programme of the proposed strategic framework be considered in conjunction with the corresponding section of the programme performance report. Since the programme performance report reflects a period of two bienniums prior to that covered by the proposed strategic framework, the Committee recommended that the Secretariat formally present updated information on the relevant parts of the programme performance report on the understanding that such updated information would also be considered. The Committee underlined that the assessment of past programme performance should reflect, in accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of General Assembly resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000, significant external factors that may have affected the achievements of the various programmes.**

2. Further development of topics for a pilot evaluation

389. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on further development of topics for a pilot thematic evaluation (E/AC.51/2004/2).

390. The representative of the Office of Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

391. The proposal to conduct thematic evaluations was welcomed and supported. The view was expressed that thematic evaluations would provide an assessment of the cumulative effect of programmes with common purposes. It was noted that the benefits of thematic evaluations as discussed in the report were important, and that the findings of those evaluations would allow the Committee to address coordination and cooperation among United Nations programmes. It was further noted that thematic evaluations were relevant to the Secretary-General's reform for strengthening monitoring and evaluation as well as to the new budget process.

392. The view was expressed that the Office of Internal Oversight Services had provided a very thorough presentation in its report of the three topics proposed for consideration. All three topics were noted to have merit and to be relevant to the priorities of the United Nations. The points were raised that consideration should be given to which proposal would make the greatest contribution to the current work of

the United Nations and which would best contribute to strengthening the Organization.

393. It was noted that thematic evaluations would not be favoured over in-depth evaluations but instead would be complementary. It was further noted that the comparative advantage of thematic evaluations was their focus on a single cross-cutting issue, thus enabling a more systemic review of United Nations programmes that shared common goals and objectives.

394. Regarding which topic to select, delegations stressed their readiness to be flexible in the selection. The strongest interest was expressed for the first two proposed topics: (a) information systems supporting the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and other internationally agreed development goals; and (b) linkages between headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices in the development arena.

395. The first topic was noted to have several advantages. The view was expressed that that topic was particularly relevant given that the Secretary-General was required to report on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in 2005 and given the pressing need to implement them; the view was also expressed that it was at the crossroads of information technology and communication for development. It was further noted that there had been an accumulation of development agreements reached at various world summits and conferences and that there was a need to assess the implementation of those agreements.

396. The views were also expressed that the second topic had direct relevance to the Millennium Declaration and would encompass a wide range of development issues, including development goals. It was noted that it would be most useful to have a wide-ranging discussion on development and that the complementarities between headquarters and field activities were very important.

397. The view was expressed that the third topic, concerning United Nations prevention of and response to natural disasters, also had merit and relevance, in particular given the upcoming World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be held in Kobe, Japan, in 2005.

398. Several delegations expressed a desire to consult with their colleagues regarding the final selection of a topic. The view was also expressed that further discussion on which topic to select for the thematic evaluation would be welcomed.

Conclusions and recommendations

399. **The Committee agreed that the Office of Internal Oversight Services should undertake a thematic evaluation for submission to the Committee at its forty-fifth session. Noting that all the themes were important and had merit, the Committee selected the theme: "Linkages between headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration".**

3. In-depth evaluation of the programme on public administration, finance and development

400. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 7 June, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight

Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on public administration, finance and development (E/AC.51/2004/3).

401. The representative of the Office of Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and responded jointly with the Director of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

402. Particular support was expressed for recommendations 1, 4 and 8. Satisfaction was expressed over the strengthening of the Division's capacity as a result of a recent restructuring, the progress made in sharing information and the role therein of the United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance (UNPAN), and the participation of the regional centres in UNPAN. Given the positive assessment by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of support provided by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management to the Global Forum on Reinventing Government, the view was expressed that that support should be further enhanced. With regard to improving the development of best practices, the view was expressed that there was a need for a critical analysis of data and the use of standard indicators. Concern was expressed over the Division's resources being spread too thinly, the possible duplication of efforts by the Division and the United Nations Development Programme, the lack of visibility of outputs, which required a better dissemination strategy, and the absence of a well-developed methodology for best practices. The absence of UNPAN focal points in some regional commissions and the poor quality of Internet connection with some centres in Africa were also noted with concern. The view was expressed that recommendation 5 should be expanded to include academic and research centres dealing with public administration in a worldwide database to enhance the outreach to decision makers.

Conclusions and recommendations

403. **The Committee recommended the approval of the recommendations contained in the in-depth evaluation of the programme on public administration, finance and development, it being understood that recommendation 2 would read as follows:**

> **"Recommendation 2**
> **"Support to international cooperation in tax matters in the Financing for Development Office**
>
> **"The Department of Economic and Social Affairs should ensure that the work on international cooperation in tax matters and support to Governments is given appropriate focus and support within the Financing for Development Office."**

404. **The Committee noted the comments of the Secretary-General in paragraph 44 of document E/AC.51/2004/3 concerning the need for the Division to reorient its technical assistance programme and in that respect recalled the request of the General Assembly, in paragraph 48 of its resolution 58/270, that the Secretary-General undertake a fundamental and comprehensive review of**

the regular programme of technical cooperation and to make appropriate proposals to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

405. **Concerning recommendation 1, the Committee agreed that within its mandate for work on the broad theme of strengthening governance systems and institutions for social development and poverty reduction, the Division for Public Administration and Development Management should seek to enhance the effectiveness and impact of its work by applying the three criteria set out in paragraph 61 of document E/AC.51/2004/3 in the development of its future programme of work and that the Secretary-General should make proposals to the General Assembly, as required.**

406. **The Committee stressed the crucial importance of the role of the regional commissions in the implementation of the programme, and in particular in the development of UNPAN. The Committee commended the regional commissions that had already established effective focal points for UNPAN and recommended that the Division for Public Administration and Development Management renew its efforts to establish working relationships with the other regional commissions.**

407. **The Committee noted the effective assistance of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management for the Global Forums on Reinventing Government, which had been an important venue for engaging decision makers and other high-level government officials with the goals of the programme, and called for continued partnership with regard to future sessions of the Global Forum.**

408. **The Committee recommended, in connection with recommendation 5, "Developing an information strategy", that the Division continued to engage both present and future national policy makers through an outreach strategy aimed at educational institutions, including undergraduate and graduate schools of public administration, and civil society organizations around the world.**

409. **The Committee stressed that the implementation of recommendation 4 would not imply the establishment of macrolevel indicators to measure the overall performance of public administration of individual Member States.**

4. Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-first session on the in-depth evaluation of sustainable development

410. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-first session on the in-depth evaluation of sustainable development (E/AC.51/2004/4).

411. The representative of the Office of Internal Oversight Services introduced the report. Representatives of the Office and the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, of the Secretariat, responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

412. Satisfaction was expressed that significant progress had been made on the recommendations and that resultant improvements had already been noted. The view was expressed that the report was both balanced and accurate. There was general agreement with the overall assessment of the report.

413. The Division for Sustainable Development was commended for its efforts to implement the recommendations, in particular its work to revitalize the Commission on Sustainable Development, its initiatives to involve major groups and strengthen partnerships within the Organization and its enhancement of the Division's web site. It was suggested that the web site could be further utilized as a clearing house for national experience with sustainable development.

414. Regarding recommendation 2, on enhancing the understanding of sustainable development, concern was expressed that a common understanding still had not been achieved. It was noted that more attention should be given to ensuring that such a common understanding was reached and that the dissemination of information on the concept of sustainable development was of fundamental importance.

415. Regarding recommendation 3, on streamlining reporting, the Division was encouraged to further streamline its requirements for national reporting. It was suggested that the Division provide technical assistance to assist countries in meeting their national reporting requirements and that emphasis be given to different national reporting structures. It was also noted that importance should be placed on the quality rather than the quantity of reports.

416. The view was expressed that the Division should continue to play a coordinating role in the United Nations, as exemplified by its position as secretariat of "UN Water". Further, the view was expressed that the Division should further enhance its inter-agency coordination and that it was uniquely placed to harmonize disparate efforts in the area of sustainable development.

417. The need to continue to support national sustainable development programmes and to provide technical assistance was also noted. It was suggested that the Division raise awareness of its technical assistance programme.

418. Concern was expressed at the finding of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (para. 34) concerning the existence of vulnerabilities in the use of indicators to monitor the development and implementation of national sustainable development strategies.

Conclusions and recommendations

419. **The Committee recommended approval of the conclusion of the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-first session on the in-depth evaluation of sustainable development (E/AC.51/2004/4).**

420. **The Committee stressed the need for the Division for Sustainable Development to further enhance its efforts to ensure that a common understanding of sustainable development, incorporating its social, economic and environmental pillars, be achieved in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/253.**

421. **The Committee also emphasized that the Division should focus on promoting multisectoral approaches in the area of sustainable development and to continue contributing to effective inter-agency cooperation.**

422. **The Committee stressed that the achievement of sustainable development objectives depended on the effective collection and analysis of data on national progress towards goals in the social, economic and environmental areas on a voluntary basis and in the context of national priorities and strategies. At the same time, the Committee requested the Division to continue to make efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication with other organs in the United Nations system when asking for national reporting.**

5. Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-first session on the in-depth evaluation of the population programme

423. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 June, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-first session on the in-depth evaluation of the population programme (E/AC.51/2004/5 and Corr.1).

424. The representative of the Office of Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and responded jointly with the Director of the Population Division of the Secretariat to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

425. Appreciation was expressed for the frank and forthcoming analysis provided in the report. The progress made by the Population Division in the use of interdisciplinary approaches to population issues was appreciated and its collaboration with partners, such as the United Nations Statistics Division and the regional commissions, was commended. In that context, the need for stronger cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund was stressed. The existence of linkages between demographic research and data collection and monitoring the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals was emphasized. Support was expressed for the finding of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (see ibid., para. 25, on the implementation of Committee recommendation 9 (c)) that further work should be done on the complex interaction of population dynamics and poverty. The question was raised of the relevance of population programmes to human security. Concern was expressed over the lack of implementation of recommendation 9 on disaggregating urban projections by sex and age, and it was stressed that appropriate resources should have been sought to implement that recommendation. Note was made of the assessment that the impact of the restructuring in the regional commissions had had mixed results.

426. The view was expressed that since population issues were closely linked to such economic and social issues as health and sanitation and the status of women, on which human security relied greatly, the promotion of human security was crucially important in the programme on population.

Conclusions and recommendations

427. **The Committee recommended approval of the conclusion of the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-first session on the in-depth evaluation of the population programme (E/AC.51/2004/5 and Corr.1).**

428. **The Committee acknowledged the importance of the collection, accumulation and analysis of basic country data for any population strategies, especially for the evaluation of achievements towards the Millennium Development Goals.**

429. **The Committee welcomed the Population Division's cooperation with the Statistics Division, the regional commissions and other international and regional bodies to ensure that it had access to the latest reliable data available, and encouraged the Division to further strengthen its cooperation mechanism.**

Chapter III
Coordination questions

A. Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2003

430. At its 7th, 8th and 22nd meetings, on 10, 14 and 24 June, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2003 (E/2004/67). The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

431. It was noted that the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2003 contained two major modifications, namely, the inclusion of the outcome of the first regular session of CEB of 2004 and the increased emphasis on results and accomplishments, as requested by the Committee at its forty-third session.[3] The issues addressed by CEB and its high-level committees in both the programme and management areas during 2003 and the early part of 2004 were highlighted in the report. On the programme side, the focus was on ensuring coherence in the United Nations system's response to the Millennium Declaration in the areas of sustainable development and follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Also addressed by CEB were financing for development and the follow-up to the Monterrey Conference, curbing transnational crime, bridging the digital divide, HIV/AIDS and its linkages with food security and governance, system-wide support for Africa's development and the New Partnership for Africa's Development and preventing armed conflict. In the management field, CEB dealt with issues relating to the strengthening of the security management system, the establishment of a Senior Management Service, the reactivation of the Finance and Budget Network, the strengthening of common services and the development of projects in the area of information and communication technology aimed at strengthening communication and information-sharing among the organizations of the system.

432. The Committee welcomed the report's informative presentation, including the updated information on inter-agency cooperation, and commended its improved format and content. It noted that inter-agency coordination had become more transparent and had contributed to enhanced dialogue with Member States. It also reaffirmed its view that CEB was the principal body for coordination within the United Nations system and for ensuring coherent and coordinated system-wide responses to intergovernmental mandates and decisions. Members of the Committee suggested that it would be useful if future annual reports of CEB showed results achieved as a consequence of inter-agency coordination and analysed how well the system has worked together.

433. The CEB focus on ensuring coordinated implementation of the Millennium Declaration was welcomed. The Committee emphasized the need to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity of efforts between CEB and other inter-agency bodies, including those of the United Nations Development Group and United Nations Executive Committees, in the follow-up and reporting on the

implementation of the Millennium Declaration and other United Nations conferences and summits. The 2005 comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration was seen as a means of reinforcing the links between the various commitments made on sustainable development and their coordinated follow-up. The Committee urged all relevant organizations of the system to provide timely contributions to the 2005 review.

434. The importance of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty as key elements in the inter-agency follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development was stressed by members of the Committee. Also emphasized was the role of science and technology as well as intellectual property rights in achieving sustainable development. The Committee concurred with the broad principles adopted by CEB in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular the focus on implementation at all levels and the emphasis on maximizing inter-agency support for the two-year implementation cycles of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It welcomed the decisions of CEB on inter-agency collaborative mechanisms in the areas of water, energy and oceans and coastal areas and requested that it be informed of progress in their implementation. In the context of a suggestion for a separate CEB task force to coordinate the system's efforts to fight hunger, it was explained that inter-agency work in this field was already taking place under the leadership of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the context of its mandate from the World Food Summit and the Millennium Summit. In addition, the United Nations System Network on Rural Development and Food Security, established in 1997 and comprising 20 United Nations organizations, continued to serve as the main inter-agency mechanism for coordinating efforts to achieve the goals of "food for all" and rural poverty reduction. Further information was requested by the Committee on the terms of reference of the inter-agency collaborative arrangements related to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and their modalities of interaction with non-United Nations system stakeholders.

435. The Committee took note of the United Nations system follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development. It was observed that the assessment offered in the report on the commitments and follow-up to the Conference did not fully take into account the many initiatives that developed countries had already taken. As to the analysis of resource flows by the High Level Committee on Programmes, it was suggested that such analysis should highlight the link between national policies and corresponding levels of trade and investment as well as the link between the principles set out in the Monterrey Consensus and resource flows. Stress was placed on ensuring simplification and harmonization of the rules, procedures and working methods of the organizations of the United Nations system and aligning them with those of partner countries.

436. The Committee reaffirmed its support for inter-agency efforts led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to curb transnational crime. It underscored the need for close coordination between the Office and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system in carrying out various measures to curb transnational crime, particularly those relating to post-conflict situations and combating the spread of HIV/AIDS in prisons. The Committee also expressed support for the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

437. It was noted that CEB considered the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society to have been a success and that work was under way in the United Nations system to move ahead with the implementation of its Plan of Action. The Committee encouraged CEB to continue its efforts in helping bridge the digital divide by, inter alia, supporting the developing countries in improving their access to information and communication technologies through training and education, building capacities, improving connectivity and e-readiness as well as strengthening their information technology infrastructure.

438. On HIV/AIDS, the Committee noted the multiple challenges posed by the AIDS pandemic and commended the efforts of CEB to address the interlinked crises of HIV/AIDS, food security and governance. The suggestion was made for the Committee to be informed of progress in implementing the programmatic and institutional measures adopted by CEB to deal with the triple crisis.

439. The Committee welcomed the high priority CEB continued to attach to ensuring the effective and coordinated support of the United Nations system for the sustainable development of Africa, particularly for the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The Committee noted the progress achieved by the five inter-agency thematic clusters (infrastructure development; governance, peace and security; agriculture, trade and market access; environment, population and urbanization; and human resources development/employment and HIV/AIDS) in coordinating United Nations support for the New Partnership. It called for further strengthening of United Nations system support by promoting synergies among the thematic clusters, mainstreaming the issues of HIV/AIDS, gender and human rights into all cluster activities, enhancing support to the Commission of the African Union and the New Partnership and further clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies operating at the regional and subregional levels in Africa.

440. The renewed attention being given at the inter-agency level to preventing armed conflicts was welcomed. Support was expressed for the efforts of CEB to build a system-wide capacity for conflict prevention through comprehensive, multidimensional and country-based approaches and through enhanced dialogue and improved information-sharing among the organizations concerned. The Committee encouraged CEB to continue to pursue its efforts in that regard.

441. On management issues, the Committee expressed its deep concern over the increased threats to the safety and security of the staff of the United Nations system. It welcomed the Board's increased attention to this issue and expressed full support for measures to enhance staff security through a unified and well-coordinated security management system with clear lines of responsibility and accountability, increased training for all staff and greater engagement of senior management at headquarters and in the field. The Committee urged CEB to pursue the review of policies regarding common premises, to continue to monitor the development of emergency preparedness plans to ensure that they met the same standards and to encourage senior officials of the United Nations system to take their security responsibilities seriously. It also called upon CEB to ensure appropriate inter-agency arrangements for financing the increased costs of strengthening the security management system.

442. On financial matters, the Committee welcomed the renewed attention being given to a more proactive inter-agency work programme in the financial and

budgetary areas to be pursued by the Finance and Budget Network of the High Level Committee on Management.

443. With regard to the request of the Committee that CEB facilitate the exchange of information on practices in measuring programme performance and results, in measuring productivity in service functions and in collaboration on conference management, it was pointed out that those requests were already being addressed in the framework of the High Level Committee on Management in various inter-agency consultations, looking specifically at greater harmonization in the application of results-based management and budgeting approaches by organizations of the system. In the area of conference management, initial efforts focused on collaboration among freelance interpreters. Further initiatives to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences in those areas were expected to be taken up by the High Level Committee on Management in the course of 2004.

444. On the issue of the establishment of a Senior Management Service, delegations questioned to what extent the Board's decision to establish such a service related to General Assembly resolution 57/285, in which the Assembly had requested the International Civil Service Commission to review its proposal on the establishment of a Senior Management Service and stated its intent to revert to the issue at its fifty-eighth session.

445. Another delegation observed that since the General Assembly, in its resolution 57/285, had not agreed with the recommendation of the International Civil Service Commission on the establishment of a Senior Management Service and had clearly indicated that it intended to continue to examine the issue, and since the Commission itself viewed the Service as an inter-organizational component of the common system for which it would need to be responsible, CEB, by taking a decision on the establishment of the Service, had ignored the view of the Assembly on this particular issue. The delegation indicated that any decision related to the establishment of a common service was still in the hands of the Assembly, which was still waiting for a recommendation from the Commission on that issue.

446. Other delegations considered that the Senior Management Service was a highly commendable initiative on the part of the Secretary-General and CEB, as a means of strengthening leadership and management throughout the system.

Conclusions and recommendations

447. **The Committee took note of the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2003 (E/2004/67), subject to the observations below. It welcomed the report's informative presentation, including the updated information on inter-agency cooperation, and commended its improved format and content.**

448. **The Committee reaffirmed its view that CEB was the principal body for coordination within the United Nations system for ensuring coherent and coordinated system-wide responses to intergovernmental mandates and decisions.**

449. **The Committee underlined the importance of effective coordination of system-wide efforts against hunger and recommended that CEB include, in its annual overview report for 2004, information on existing mechanisms in that area and on any further initiatives envisaged.**

450. **The Committee noted the high priority that CEB continued to accord to ensuring effective and coordinated United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development. In that connection, it called for a further strengthening of United Nations system support by, inter alia, promoting synergies among the thematic clusters, mainstreaming HIV/AIDS, gender and human rights into all cluster activities, enhancing support for the Commission of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development and further clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies operating at the regional and subregional levels in Africa. It welcomed the intention of CEB to undertake an in-depth review of United Nations system support for African development and the New Partnership with a view to strengthening such support.**

451. **The Committee expressed support for the efforts of CEB to build a system-wide capacity for conflict prevention through comprehensive, multidimensional and country-based approaches as well as through enhanced dialogue and improved information-sharing among the organizations concerned, and encouraged CEB to continue to pursue its efforts in this regard.**

452. **The Committee reiterated its deep concern over the increased threats to the safety and security of staff of the United Nations system and reaffirmed its full support for ongoing efforts to strengthen the security management system. In this regard, emphasis was placed on the review of policies regarding common premises, monitoring of the development of emergency preparedness and encouraging senior officials of the United Nations system to take their security responsibilities seriously.**

453. **The Committee urged CEB to intensify inter-agency cooperation and exchange of information on practices in measuring programme performance and results, in measuring productivity in service functions and in collaboration on conference management.**

454. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly revert to the issue of the establishment of the Senior Management Service at its fifty-ninth session under the agenda item entitled "United Nations common system".**

B. New Partnership for Africa's Development

455. At its 4th meeting, on 8 June, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (E/AC.51/2004/6).

456. The Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report. The Committee decided to convene an informal consultation on 10 June at which it would examine issues requiring further clarification.

Discussion

457. Much appreciation was expressed for the comprehensive nature of the report, particularly for the way in which it clearly highlighted progress made by individual agencies in supporting the priorities of NEPAD, as well as continuing challenges and constraints they faced in providing more support.

458. There was also appreciation for the fact that the United Nations system had organized its activity around the six thematic clusters that corresponded to the priorities of the New Partnership. Note was taken of the fact that the nature and scope of support provided by the United Nations system had become broader and deeper. The role of the United Nations system in supporting the NEPAD secretariat and the regional economic communities in policy development, programme formulation, capacity-building and institutional development was widely noted. Emphasis was also placed on the issue of coordination within the United Nations system at the global, regional, subregional and national levels as a means of deepening support to NEPAD.

459. The assignment of agencies as conveners for individual clusters was acknowledged as a positive development and individual agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, were commended for their cluster leadership. The Committee urged agencies to collaborate more closely. It was suggested, for example, that such agencies as the World Intellectual Property Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization needed to work closely in supporting the development of Africa through mobilizing industrial and intellectual resources for Africa's development. At the same time, it was emphasized that, under the sub-cluster on humanitarian response and post-conflict recovery, the inter-agency assessment team should address needs and gaps at an early stage rather than resorting to emergency measures when gaps in the humanitarian situation became critical. It was suggested that lessons should be drawn from the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi for the work of the sub-cluster on humanitarian affairs and post-conflict recovery.

460. The view was expressed that the momentum gained since the consideration of the previous report of the Secretary-General on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2003/6) with regard to coordination efforts should be enhanced and strengthened, particularly with a view to achieving a higher level of support and coherence within the six priority areas identified under NEPAD. Outreach and support should be channelled through all appropriate mechanisms of the United Nations system to individual African countries. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa was urged to increase its participation in available mechanisms, particularly the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and regional consultation mechanisms, as well as policy interface with other agencies. It was widely acknowledged that NEPAD represented a new model for development that affirmed that the primary responsibility of Governments in their national development. The success of NEPAD would hold many lessons for other developing countries around the world. The importance of increased South-South cooperation for the implementation of NEPAD was emphasized. African countries were, therefore, urged to take advantage of South-South cooperation with other developing countries in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean to advance their development.

461. The important role that the Economic Commission for Africa had played in supporting the NEPAD secretariat and in the implementation of the various programmes of NEPAD was also acknowledged. Questions were, nonetheless, raised concerning the division of tasks between ECA and the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa in supporting the implementation of NEPAD. It was clarified that, in addition to convening the cluster on infrastructure and providing assistance on a

range of NEPAD priorities, ECA coordinated the United Nations system at the regional level using the vehicle of the regional consultations meeting of United Nations bodies working in Africa. The Office, on the other hand, prepared reports on the implementation of NEPAD to intergovernmental bodies at the global level, undertook global advocacy in support of NEPAD and provided technical support to the Secretary-General in coordinating the work of the United Nations system at the global level.

462. The view was expressed that investment in development and the eradication of poverty in Africa would support stability and security on the continent. The huge investments in peacekeeping and peace-building currently needed to stabilize Africa could be reduced significantly if the economic root causes of marginalization and poverty were addressed through development.

463. Financial resource mobilization is the key to the successful implementation of NEPAD. However, the efforts of African countries have been constrained by a myriad of factors, including a huge external debt burden, falling commodity prices and capital flight from the region. The agencies of the United Nations system can play an important role in supporting resource mobilization for Africa, in particular the implementation of NEPAD. It was stressed that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa needed to increase its efforts in its global advocacy work to mobilize financial resources for Africa.

464. While the conclusions and recommendations of the report were generally welcomed, clarifications were sought regarding the implications of paragraph 72 (c), in which it was proposed that "additional resources should be made available to the system to better support NEPAD". Clarifications were provided to the effect that those proposals stemmed from the recognition that many agencies had reported the lack of adequate resources as a constraint to providing more support to the programmes of NEPAD. It was also emphasized that the additional resources required were related to the needs of the agencies and organizations of the entire United Nations system, and not for the particular entity.

465. Concerning governance, peace and security, particularly the first sub-cluster on humanitarian response and post conflict recovery, one delegation emphasized the need to continue to strengthen comprehensive and seamless support for the purposes of the consolidation of peace, from humanitarian assistance to reconstruction assistance through effective and efficient coordination among relevant international organizations and agencies.

466. Concerning the sub-cluster on political, economic and corporate governance, support was expressed for United Nations support for the African peer review mechanism in order to further promote social and economic reconstruction based on democracy and good governance.

467. Concerning a "more generous and innovative international financing scheme", the view was expressed that making the best use of the existing schemes of international development financing agencies must be the first priority, even if it seemed like a revolutionary approach.

468. Some delegations requested clarification of paragraph 72 (c) of the report since the recommendation seemed to be too generic and vague, and the delegation did not consider it adequate for the Committee to make recommendations on matters related to resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

469. **The Committee took note of and welcomed with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2004/6).**

470. **The Committee welcomed the fact that the United Nations system had organized its activity around the six thematic clusters that responded to the priorities of NEPAD, noting that coordination within the United Nations system at the global, regional, subregional and national levels should be strengthened as a means of deepening support for NEPAD.**

471. **The Committee welcomed the ongoing cooperation among agencies and urged them to collaborate more closely. The Committee noted that the lessons learned from the Economic and Social Council ad hoc advisory groups on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi should guide the inter-agency team in its work of the sub-clusters.**

472. **The Committee emphasized the role of the Special Adviser in leading coordination at the global level for support for NEPAD, and called on the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa.**

473. **The Committee urged that the United Nations system, in particular the Chief Executives Board, sustain the momentum generated by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in the coordination of support for NEPAD.**

474. **The Committee called for a sustained drive to engage partners to support NEPAD, including in a South-South context.**

475. **The Committee recommended that:**

(a) **The United Nations system use the existing coordination mechanisms at the global, regional and country levels to strengthen policy coherence in support of NEPAD;**

(b) **United Nations entities further deepen their collaboration and develop the tools necessary to achieve operational coherence and impact of their various programmes in support of NEPAD;**

(c) **United Nations entities mobilize sufficient resources to fund activities in support of NEPAD.**

476. **The Committee further recommended that, in order for it to continue monitoring work in progress in support of NEPAD, the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its forty-fifth session on the further future engagement of the United Nations system with NEPAD.**

Chapter IV

Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee within the framework of its mandate

477. At its 23rd meeting on 28 June, the Committee considered the item entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate". It also held informal consultations on this item on 2 July.

478. During the course of the discussions, proposals on ways to improve the working methods of the Committee were put forward by delegations. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee agreed to focus its discussion on questions relating to: (a) the quality and timeliness of documentation; (b) the conduct of meetings; (c) the clustering of issues for discussion; (d) the format of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination; (e) consideration of the report of the Committee and follow-up of its recommendations; (f) the duration and timing of the Committee's sessions; and (g) the role of observers.

Conclusions and recommendations

479. **The Committee affirmed the importance of improving its working methods.**

480. **In response to paragraphs 16 and 18 of General Assembly resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, several proposals were put forward during the meetings. Owing to the lack of time, however, the Committee decided to revert to this item, as a matter of priority, at the beginning of its forty-fifth session.**

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Committee

481. The draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Committee is set out below. It has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative authority and in the light of the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its forty-fourth session.

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 54/236)

4. Programme questions:

(a) Programme planning:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on priority-setting (A/59/87)

(b) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (in accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/269):

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (in fascicle form)

(c) Evaluations.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation on the theme "Linkages between headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration" (see para. 399 of the present report)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of human settlements (see A/57/16, para. 259 (c))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-second session on the in-depth evaluation of the subprogrammes on General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and Economic and Social Council support and coordination (see ibid., paras. 260-274)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-second session on the in-depth evaluation of legal affairs (see ibid., paras. 275-290)

5. Coordination questions:

   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

   Documentation

   Annual overview report of the Board for 2004

   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

6. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.

8. Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6* and corrigendum (A/57/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1).

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/58/16).

[3] Ibid., para. 578.

Annex I

Agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme planning;
   (b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007;
   (c) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.
7. Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session.

Annex II

List of documents before the Committee at its forty-fourth session

A/59/6 (Part one) and Corr.1	Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007: Part One: Plan outline
	Part Two: Biennial programme plan
A/59/6 (Prog. 1)	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management
A/59/6 (Prog. 2)	Political affairs
A/59/6 (Prog. 3)	Disarmament
A/59/6 (Prog. 4)	Peacekeeping operations
A/59/6 (Prog. 5)	Peaceful uses of outer space
A/59/6 (Prog. 6)	Legal affairs
A/59/6 (Prog. 7)	Economic and social affairs
A/59/6 (Prog. 8)	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
A/59/6 (Prog. 9)	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
A/59/6 (Prog. 10)	Trade and development
A/59/6 (Prog. 11)	Environment
A/59/6 (Prog. 12)	Human settlements
A/59/6 (Prog. 13)	International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice
A/59/6 (Prog. 14)	Economic and social development in Africa
A/59/6 (Prog. 15)	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
A/59/6 (Prog. 16)	Economic development in Europe
A/59/6 (Prog. 17)	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
A/59/6 (Prog. 18)	Economic and social development in Western Asia
A/59/6 (Prog. 19)	Human rights
A/59/6 (Prog. 20)	Protection of and assistance to refugees
A/59/6 (Prog. 21)	Palestine refugees
A/59/6 (Prog. 22) and Corr.1	Humanitarian assistance
A/59/6 (Prog. 23)	Public information

A/59/6 (Prog. 24)	Management and support services
A/59/6 (Prog. 25)	Internal oversight
A/59/6 (Prog. 26)	Jointly financed activities
A/59/69	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003
A/59/79	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives
A/59/87	Report of the Secretary-General on priority setting
E/2004/67	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2003
E/AC.51/2004/1	Provisional agenda
E/AC.51/2004/2	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on further development of topics for a pilot thematic evaluation
E/AC.51/2004/3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on public administration, finance and development
E/AC.51/2004/4	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-first session on the in-depth evaluation of sustainable development
E/AC.51/2004/5 and Corr.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-first session on the in-depth evaluation of the population programme
E/AC.51/2004/6	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
E/AC.51/2004/7	Statement submitted by the Secretary-General on programme budget implications of draft recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination
E/AC.51/2004/L.1 and Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation

E/AC.51/2004/L.3	Note by the Secretariat on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit
E/AC.51/2004/L.4	Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Committee
E/AC.51/2004/L.5 and Add.1-37	Draft report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session
E/AC.51/2004/CRP.1	Note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007: review of part two: biennial programme plan, by sectoral, functional and regional bodies
E/AC.51/2004/INF.1	List of delegations

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